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U.S. Spokesman on Talbott's Tour of ex-USSR States

LD1709080593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0655 GMT 17 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington, September 17 (TASS)—U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry on Thursday described the recently-ended tour of ex-Soviet republics by Strobe Talbott, special adviser to the U.S. secretary of state on newly independent countries, as very successful on the whole.

McCurry denied press reports that the ambassador at large had declined to sign agreements with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan on the granting of U.S. aid to them.

At the same time McCurry confirmed that Talbott had interrupted his visit to Ashgabat as a token of protest against the detention of several opposition figures in the republic.

In Uzbekistan, the special adviser to the U.S. secretary of state had a lengthy and frank conversation with President Islam Karimov. Contrary to press reports, the delegation led by Talbott did not leave Tashkent earlier than planned but had to cancel a meeting with pressmen before departure to keep the schedule, McCurry said.

In Turkmenistan, Talbott really wound up his visit to Ashgabat ahead of time. This happened after the authorities of Turmenistan detained several activists of the human rights movement. That was actually a diplomatic protest, McCurry pointed out.

The spokesman said he did not hear anything about Talbott's plans to sign any agreements in Tashkent and Ashgabat. Talbott discussed U.S. aid programs with Presidents Islam Karimov and Saparmurad Niyazov.

In Kyrgyzstan, Talbott had fruitful discussions with President Askar Akayev, parliamentarians, and members of the opposition. In Kazakhstan, the delegation led by Talbott had successful talks with President Nursultan Nazarbayev and other officials on economic development matters, the reform process and security issues. The delegation also had very serious discussions with President Emomali Rakhmonov of Tajikistan, McCurry said.

Skokov, Volskiy Help Organize Pro-USSR Group

LD1609100393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0937 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Yuriy Skokov, former secretary of the Russian Security Council, joined pro-communist and hard-line forces and became a member of the organising committee of the "Congress of the Peoples of the USSR" which aims to restore the collapsed empire.

An organiser of the congress, editor-in-chief of the former communist "GLASNOST" publication Yuriy Izyumov told reporters on Thursday [16 September] that besides Skokov, the committee united former member of the Communist Party Central Committee Arkadiy Volskiy who is now president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, ex-world chess champion Anatoliy Karpov, editors-in-chief of the former communist daily "PRAVDA" and of the hard-line newspaper "DYEN", Gennadiy Seleznev and Aleksandr Prokhanov, as well as die- hard former Soviet parliamentarians such as Sazhi Umalatova, the hard-line "National Salvation Front" and the "Working Moscow" movements.

The Congress of the Peoples of the USSR will be held on September 20 "to express those wishes of the people which are aimed at restoring the superpower called USSR", according to Izyumov.

He added, however, that the "congress will not be of an extremist character" and called on various political forces to join it.

"We opened doors for all political partiers and movements", he said.

The congress is to work out a manifesto to the peoples of Russia which would outline the tactics of restoring the USSR.

Izyumov said it is necessary to adjust the methods of restoring the Soviet Union to present-day requirements and the political situation.

Moscow authorities banned a rally by the hard-line "National Salvation Front" in Moscow timed to the congress, but a co-chair of the front, Mikhail Titov, warned that the rally would be held despite the ban.

Ruble Zone Agreement Implies CIS 'Common Market'

PM1609161393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin article: "Economic Union Being Revived. Russia and Kazakhstan Pioneers on This Road"]

[Text] On 20 September customs inspections are being abolished for citizens of Russia and Kazakhstan on the border between the two countries. This is the result of the recent meeting between Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Federation Government, and his Kazakhstan counterpart Sergey Tereshchenko. The accord should undoubtedly be viewed in the context of the agreement reached 7 September by Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan on the creation of a single ruble zone. This is a concrete step toward the conclusion of a future economic union among the former republics of the USSR.

In fact the agreement on the single ruble zone itself necessitates a whole series of subsequent steps in the main areas of economic policy, which furthermore must be smooth and dynamic. There must be a standardization of the principles

of customs, taxation, budget, banking, and currency legislation and guarantees of the free movement of goods, investments, and labor on the territory of the partner countries. In other words, we are talking about creating not just a ruble zone of a new type but a common market for the countries of the CIS.

What we are actually seeing today is the logical outcome of the processes of decentralization of the economy—the collapse and deadlocking of the republic plans for autonomous entry into the European market. So many sober voices were heard in 1991 warning people of the fatal danger of unthinkingly tearing off their own piece of the once united national economy. Who heeded them then? We wanted to tear it apart so we did, and now we are beginning to put much of it back together again. In the past two years we have all come to appreciate keenly that the West does not need our problems. Much was promised—where are the millions and indeed billions of dollars now? We were promised them initially "for the breakthrough to democracy," now simply in exchange for good conduct, the criteria of which are generally clear—doing as we are told in economic policy, especially in the foreign market. The West is quite naturally concerned for its own interests and at last the CIS countries have decided to look after theirs too. Which corresponds not only to economic logic but historical logic too.

There are quite a few problems on this path. The destructive processes which ravaged the republics' economic ties have gone too far to be reversed. There is no doubt that the attempts to restore or create fundamentally new relations of cooperation in the sphere of the economy will be used by certain political forces within the CIS to justify another round of "anti-imperial hysteria." But the reality is that the moves which the republics are making toward one another today are bound to have an effect primarily on the living conditions of millions of people. Which indeed is the main factor determining the fate of the incipient economic union. Only one thing is clear—we are the only ones who can help ourselves today.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Sep

LD1709060093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0508 GMT 17 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 17—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an article today, entitled "Russia and Georgia Make One More Step Towards a Summit by Signing a Number of Intergovernmental Agreements in Moscow." It deals with the results of the talks between Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev and his Georgian counterpart Georgiy Karkarashvili, which took place here on September 15. The newspaper points out that on the same day Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia signed a number of documents, including the agreement about Russia granting a loan to Georgia in 1993.

Touching upon the consolidation of positions of the supporters of ex-President Gamsakhurdia in Georgia, who cut off the central part of the republic from the Black Sea ports of Batumi and Poti, and the resumption of combat operations in the area of Ochamchira, the newspaper writes that the situation in Georgia "evokes a serious concern over the future of Russian servicemen." According to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, under certain circumstances they may find themselves in the epicentre of the developments. In this connection the newspaper points to the need for tackling urgently the problems of an acute shortage of the personnel, the absence of normal living conditions and so on.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries another article dealing with about the same subject, which is entitled "The Government Alarmed: There is No One to Call Up." It says that the shortage of the army personnel amounts to 49 per cent of the country's potential draftees (1,814,000 people). It is planned to resolve the problem by lifting the call-up postponement for students of vocational schools and technical secondary schools.

Reporting the latest Abkhazian offensive, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze received on Thursday morning Boris Pastukhov, personal representative of the Russian president for the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict, and Valeriy Shuikov, member of the Russian parliament and chairman of the Russian part of the allied commission. Later Pastukhov said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "What took place in Abkhazia was a flagrant violation of the Sochi agreements. We are flying to Abkhazia right away to examine the situation there."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an article entitled "Russia's Presence is Felt in the Balkan Peninsula Again." It deals with the results of the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to that region. According to the newspaper, "It was the mission of rear support for the negotiating process, which is now under way in Geneva. Aside from it, Kozyrev thought it was vitally important to get acquainted with the second echelon of leaders of the warring sides. The developments show that their stand is as important for the outcome of the peace initiatives, as that of the first-echelon leaders, with whom direct, continuous and confidential contacts have been maintained for a long time."

The newspaper frontpages the exclusive interview with U.N. Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali, which deals with the protection of democracy and human rights as a new sphere of activities of the United Nations organisation. "Democracy is not a model which can be copied from some countries. It is a goal which all nations should seek to attain. The same as human rights, it is of universal nature," he said. Butrus-Ghali expressed confidence that democratic countries are most reliable in implementing the U.N. policy of protecting human rights.

PRAVDA writes, quoting the results of the public opinion poll held last spring by the Russian Defence Ministry among servicemen, that the rating of Vice President Alexandr Rutskoy is perceptibly higher than that of the president or the defence minister.

Government Issues Statement on Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict

LD1609150293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1355 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] I have just received in the studio a statement by the press service of the Council of Ministers—the Russian Federation Government—which states the following: In connection with the complications that have arisen in the conflict zone between Abkhazia and Georgia, the Russian Federation Government deems it necessary to make its position known again. It had been made public in the course of the talks between Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Council of Ministers and Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, with Patsatsia, prime minister of Georgia, held between 13 and 15 September.

In the course of the talks, the Russian representatives drew attention to the necessity for both sides involved in the conflict to strictly and fully observe all the obligations by which they are bound, and which arise from the Sochi Agreement on the cease-fire in Abkhazia, as well as the mechanism of monitoring compliance with the cease-fire dated 27 July 1993.

The Georgian side stated, as is known, that despite the technical difficulties that had arisen, the withdrawal of Georgia's heavy combat equipment from the conflict zone would be completed in the course of the following week.

The agreements that were signed created, in the opinion of everyone, a sufficient foundation for settling the entire gamut of relations.

In connection with the fact that agreements that have been signed are due to be ratified by the Russian Supreme Soviet, the Russian Federation Government emphasizes that the accords that have been reached ought unswervingly to be observed.

Alas, as we can see from today's reports, this is not being done. We will let our radio listeners know about the developments in Abkhazia and Georgia.

Condemns Abkhaz Offensive

LD1609154493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—A statement by the Russian Federation Government was distributed here today, saying that: "On 16 September this year, Abkhazian armed formations began active offensive operations with armor and artillery support in Ochamchirskiy [Ochamchire] rayon, and attacked the town of Sukhumi, crossing the city limits. There are dead and wounded, including civilians.

These actions are a crude violation by the Abkhaz side of the Sochi Cease-Fire Agreement of 27 July 1993. They cannot even be excused by the fact that the Georgian side has allowed breaches of all points of the agreement. Both sides must urgently return to carrying out the peace plan.

The Russian Government demands that the Abkhazian leadership immediately cease combat operations, cease fire, and withdraw its formations to their start lines. A refusal to do so will be viewed as a provocation [vyzov], with all the political and economic consequences that entails."

Moscow Denies Russian Troops Fighting in Abkhazia

LD1709110993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Report by observer Viktor Levin]

[Text] [Levin] In connection with recent reports about a possible participation of Russian troops in combat operations in Abkhazia, five minutes ago I called Yelena Aleksandrovna (Agapova), public relations assistant to the Russian defense Minister. Here is what she said.

[Begin Agapova recording] At this time, at 1225, we can tell you the following. As you perhaps know Army General Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev, defense minister, left for Gudauta late yesterday evening and is there now. He went there in order to study and assess the situation on site. We can say unequivocally that the Russian troops stationed there are not taking part in combat operations, and are confined to their quarters of permanent stationing.

As far as we know, a Grachev-Shevardnadze meeting is planned for today, and Ardzinba can attend the meeting, too. If this meeting takes place, we can brief you on the results later. [end recording]

Shevardnadze, Grachev Begin Meeting on Abkhazia

LD1709103193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Sochi September 17 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze is currently holding a closed-door meeting with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev in the airport of Adler near Sochi.

Shevardnadze arrived from Sukhumi, while Grachev - from Gudauta where he had met Abkhazian leaders.

Troop Commander on Tajik-Afghan Border Situation

LD1609153093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1504 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Tajik extremists and Afghan Mujahideen are planning to seize and

destroy one of the Russian outposts on the Tajik-Afghan border, Russian Border Troop Commander Andrey Nikolayev said.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Nikolayev expressed concern about the "continuing preparation of the Tajik opposition and Afghan field commanders for launching large-scale operations. Extremists and Afghan Mujahideen intend to carry out their plans through Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. This is confirmed by numerous attempts to cross the border by militants and establish positions in the Shaartuz direction and in the Dari Salamaleykum ravine. Border outposts come under continuous fire from Afghan territory. Militants smuggle weapons across the border in the Pyandzh, Ishkashim and Moscow directions."

"The command of the Russian border troops in conjunction with the Russian Defence Ministry and concerned Tajik bodies are taking measures to ensure the safety of the military and prevent an armed invasion into the republic," the statement said.

"Escalation of hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border may aggravate the situation and thwart the fragile tendency towards the normalisation of the situation in the region. All responsibility for possible extremist actions on the border will lie with their organisers," Nikolayev warned.

Foreign Ministry Discusses Tajik Situation

LD1609185093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Problems of mutual relations with close neighbors were discussed at the Russian Foreign Ministry today.

Today at the Russian Foreign Ministry mansion on Aleksey Tolstoy street in Moscow, Andrey Kozyrev, who had just returned from a trip to Washington, Zagreb, and Sarajevo, discussed with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan prospects for a political settlement to the Karabakh conflict within the framework of the CSCE. Yesterday Ter-Petrosyan was received by Boris Yeltsin.

The meeting at the Foreign Ministry building on Smolenskaya Square focused on problems of the near abroad. An interdepartmental working group for Tajikistan met here, chaired by First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin. I will recall that in accordance with the Russian president's decree, the group is responsible for coordinating the activity of different departments aimed at working out agreed proposals for a settlement in Tajikistan. Specific steps for normalizing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border were discussed, taking into account the results of Kozyrev's recent trip to these two countries.

Defense of Tajik, CIS Borders Analyzed

MK1609103893 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 53, 16 Sep 93 (signed to press 15 Sep) p 3

[Pavel Felgengauer report: "Old Borders and 'New' Bases. The Army's Strategic Retreat Comes to an End"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The decision by the authorities to halt the retreat at the Pyandzh [river defining Tajikistan-Afghanistan border] is not a coincidence. General Pavel Grachev said at a briefing at the Defense Ministry: "We have discussed at the Security Council the idea of moving the former Soviet border to the current border of Russia. But later we gave up these ideas; the border would be only 2,000 km shorter, and doing all this would be very costly. Presently, the political and economic situation gives us the hope that we will come together again. Initially into an economic union, and then into a military-political one. Apparently, there will be no moving of the borders." It is expected that Russia's borders will remain "transparent," but they will be equipped with check points.

Border troops in Tajikistan, however, proved completely unprepared to defend CIS borders, which, in President Yeltsin's view, are "effectively a Russian border." The former chief of the Russian Security Ministry's border troops believed that they were just "protecting" the border, while its "defense" was the army's business. Now the border troops are headed by an army general—Colonel General Nikolayev, former first deputy chief of the General Staff. In Tajikistan, the army and the border troops operate effectively as a single task force. However, the situation on the former Soviet border in Transcaucasia is not any better. Border guards there also need support from the army.

Thus, the decision to keep the former USSR border as an advanced border of Russia (CIS) will require the continued presence of Russian troops in the near abroad. If it was planned formerly to withdraw all the troops to Russian territory by the year 2000 and, hence, there was talk about "a temporary presence" abroad, now a concept calling for the army's permanent deployment abroad is being drawn up.

The Russian Defense Ministry has already concluded an agreement with Armenia on the deployment of the 127th Mechanized Infantry Division in Gyumri and on the protection of the Armenian-Turkish border by Russian border guards. On 2 September, an agreement was signed in Ashgabat, whereby Russian troops will not only stay on in Turkmenistan, but from 1 January the government of Niyazov the Turkmenbashi [as published] "will provide Russian troops with all kinds of support services." (It is precisely in Turkmen territory that the bulk of the former Turkestan Military District's ground troops were located.) Currently, Russia is negotiating with Georgia conditions for the deployment of Russian border troops on the Turkish border and for army garrisons in Tbilisi, Batumi, Sukhumi, and Akhalkatsi.

Following Azerbaijan's joining the CIS and the Collective Security Agreement, the return of some Russian military units to this country is also a likely possibility.

In world practice, a military presence on foreign territory is a fairly expensive luxury. General Pavel Grachev, however, believes that "the principle of deployment means that a country wishing to have Russian troops on its territory must provide them with all kinds of services from its treasury." The Russian Defense Ministry now badly needs additional financing and, evidently, hopes for support from abroad. However, if Niyazov the Turkmenbashi indeed can afford to finance a number of divisions by gas export earnings, the rest of the CIS countries are beset by significant financial difficulties. If the governments of Shevardnadze or Imamali Rakhmanov could pay anything to the Russian Defense Ministry, they will do so by using preferential credits received from the Central Bank of that same Russia. As for the deployment of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, it will definitely have to be paid for by Russia, not Ukraine. In addition, the presence of Russian troops in Transcaucasia is not quite in line with the conventional arms cuts set forth in the CFE treaty and the Tashkent Protocol.

But this is not the only problem—the thing is that the army was in retreat for too long and its combat efficiency raises serious doubts. The border in Tajikistan is presently being fortified; a total of 43,611 mines have already been planted and reinforcements have been brought in. Yet another change is underway in Afghanistan, too, and an anti-Russian alliance between Hikmatyar, Rabbani, and Shah Massoud no longer seems so improbable. Political will alone is insufficient to maintain our advanced borders.

Defense Ministry Denies Air Raids in Afghanistan

PM1609161193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Boris Vinogradov report: "Do Russian Military Aircraft Appear in Afghanistan's Sky"]

[Excerpts] Citing the official Kabul radio, REUTER has reported from Islamabad that last Monday and Tuesday military aircraft of the Russian Air Force made several raids deep into Afghan territory, subjecting large areas around the Afghan settlement of Chah Ab, located 15 km from the Tajik border, to "treatment" with incendiary bombs. [passage omitted]

The Ministry of Defense Press Center has denied the allegations of Russian Air Force raids inside Afghan territory. Colonel General of Aviation Viktor Kot, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Air Force, has declared that the subunit of Su-25 ground-attack aircraft entrusted with supporting Russian border troops in the event of a breach of the Tajik-Afghan border by large mojahedin forces did not make any combat sorties on those days.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that there is no need for such actions at the present time, following [Foreign Minister] A. Kozyrev's visit to Afghanistan. Moreover, they could complicate the normalization process in Russian-Afghan relations which began as a result of the talks held in Kabul.

Yeltsin-Rafsanjani Talks on Caucasus Reviewed

NC1709062893 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Sep 93

[(?Unattributed) commentary]

[Text] On 15 September, Boris Yeltsin and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani held a telephone conversation initiated by the Iranian side. The two presidents expressed the mutual wishes of Russia and Iran to expand bilateral ties and to carry out multi-faceted talks on matters of mutual interest and specifically on cooperation [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct]

It is very clear that the flare-up of war in Azerbaijan along with the worsening situation in Georgia not only threatens Russia's interests in the Caucasus, but also directly threatens our country's southern borders. This is largely applicable to Iran. After all, Armenian forces have practically reached the Iranian borders and this—on the basis of recognized international norms—is tantamount to the weakening of Iran's security base. Also, if events become uncontrollable, the eruption of direct conflict on the border is also possible.

At any rate, the military presence of Armenians on the Azerbaijani-Iranian borders will have a variety of unfavorable impacts, among them the internationalization of the conflict. Thus, Moscow understands Iran's concern over the operations by Armenian forces in southwestern Azerbaijan.

However, here too there is a special limit which—if surpassed by any regional country and not only Iran—will lead to negative and possibly very strong reaction by Russia. We are speaking about sending foreign military units directly to Azerbaijani territory. Thank God that recent rumors that Iranian military units had crossed the Azerbaijani border were only rumors.

The telephone conversation between the Russian and Iranian presidents showed that both for Moscow and for Tehran it is a definite fact that the Caucasus conflict should be ended as soon as possible. And the way to achieve this is clear: through talks and through a political solution of the problem. Boris Yeltsin and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that both Russia and Iran are ready to help the process for overcoming the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, and this process has apparently started. In the Moscow talks mediated by Russian diplomat Vladimir Kazimirov, Baku and Stepanakert have reached an agreement on extending the cease fire. It is hoped that this process will continue positively.

Ukrainian Official Refutes PRAVDA Article

LD1609142193 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Today at a briefing at the embassy, Vladimir Fedorov, Ukrainian charge d'affaires to the Russian Federation, on the instruction of Leonid Kravchuk, denied [allegations contained in] an article in yesterday's issue of PRAVDA called: Russia's main opponent. The Ukrainian president asked him to convey that he was, and still is in favor of relations between Ukraine and Russia being built on mutually beneficial principles, and having a friendly nature.

However, Nikolay Musiyenko, a journalist of the PRAVDA newspaper, who was present at the briefing, stated that the editorial office has got a recording of the speech by Leonid Kravchuk. In response to this statement, the Ukrainian side does not exclude that far more serious actions may follow in settling the conflict with the newspaper—up to and including court proceedings.

Deputy Foreign Minister on UN Support for Peacekeeping

MK1609084793 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 53, 16 Sep 93 (signed to press 15 Sep) p 3

[Vladimir Abarinov report on interview with Sergey Lavrov, a Russian deputy foreign minister, under "Interview" rubric: "Sergey Lavrov: We Shall Seek International Support for Our Peacekeeping Operations. Russia Recognizes Its Special Responsibility but Does Not Wish the World Community To Stand Aside"—place and date not given]

[Text] In the runup to the 48th UN General Assembly session, our correspondent met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and asked him to speak about the tasks that Russian diplomacy is setting for itself at this forum.

Among the most important ones, according to our interlocutor, will necessarily be the subject of the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Naturally, in this context everything that is happening in the former USSR, directly on our borders, is of primary importance to us. Here Russia is involved in mediation and the process of political settlement and the peacekeeping operations themselves more actively than in other regions. Over the last year and a half we have been trying to explain that, without denying our special responsibility for the maintenance of stability, order, and the observance of human rights in the political space of the former USSR, we at the same time would not like the world community to stand aside, and we are seeking support for these efforts, including on the part of the UN and the CSCE.

Sergey Lavrov admits that initially our arguments were received in a rather restrained way. The reason was obvious: It has been unprecedented in UN practice for countries directly concerned to be involved in peacekeeping operations. Our case, however, is unique, the diplomat believes—a totally exceptional situation. Extraordinary methods are called for to settle conflicts in this new geopolitical space. Everywhere we have been using one and the same scheme: two conflicting sides plus Russia. It seems that according to UN canons, this should not be so. Yet this scheme is working—in Transdniester and in Ossetia no more blood is being shed, and in Abkhazia accords have been reached on the basis on this model. In a word, Sergey Lavrov concludes, what life is accepting the UN should also accept. Along with our partners in the peacekeeping operations, we shall uphold this experience of ours, showing that these are effective mechanisms that work in very complicated conditions.

Will Russia seek legitimation of its peacekeeping activity, a special international mandate? Responding to this question, the deputy minister said: It has already been legitimized. In fact, in all of these "hot spots," with the consent of the conflicting sides, particular auxiliary UN or CSCE mechanisms are at work. The UN has its envoy to Abkhazia who is helping the trilateral process begun by Russia, Georgia, and Abkhazia. UN missions in Tajikistan have been working in conjunction with a five-sided agreement, which foreign and defense ministers have already initialed and which is to be finally approved by the presidents at a CIS summit. The CSCE has considered the question of the Transdniester situation also on the basis of the realities that have taken shape there as a result of successful peacekeeping operations. It is a different matter, Mr. Lavrov points out, that neither in Transdniester nor in Ossetia is it possible to leave things just as they are—a final political settlement is needed. Herein, incidentally, also lies the key to the Abkhaz problem, he believes. Therefore, when speaking of legitimation, one has to bear in mind that there will be no one-time act whereby the UN or CSCE will recognize all this activity to be legal and correct. This is life, the deputy minister said, a life that no one could possibly have ever imagined before. The CSCE and the UN have recognized that our methods are working. The most shining example in this respect is the Security Council's decision on Abkhazia, which welcomes the reaching of an accord. We and our partners will be asking the UN to give more active support to these efforts. We have already proposed assigning UN observers to the peacekeeping contingent in Tajikistan. And what if the question arises about supplementing Russian peacekeeping forces with contingents from other countries? With the consent of the conflicting sides, this could also become a subject for consideration.

In this case should Moscow not insist, then, that its peacekeeping forces act under a UN flag? The answer was extremely simple and prosaic. We, Mr. Lavrov said, might prefer a UN flag, but the UN is afraid to provide its flag since that would automatically mean that the UN would have to finance these operations. We believe that our peacekeeping activity is a contribution to maintaining regional as well as global stability. Chapter 8 of the UN Charter, the deputy minister recalled, speaks about the possibility and even the expediency of so-called regional agreements' assuming responsibility for

the maintenance of peace and security in respective regions. What is happening in Transdniester, Abkhazia, Ossetia, and Tajikistan clearly comes under the notion of regional agreements. And we represent our actions as such, informing the UN. At the same time we understand the UN's financial problems and raise the question in more moderate terms: In addition to political support, which we would like to be more clear cut, the UN could initiate something like a volunteer foundation to support peacekeeping operations on the territory of the former USSR. We shall apparently also raise this question, Sergey Lavrov said. After all, so far Russia is de facto alone bearing all the expenses, though our partners' share of participation is envisioned.

Does the situation in Karabakh come under the provisions of Chapter 8? What is the reason for Moscow's threatening invectives with respect to Teheran, including accusations of an intention to internationalize the conflict? Has it not been internationalized already and is Iran not a concerned party?

Yes, in Sergey Lavrov's opinion, the Karabakh settlement does come under the concept of a regional agreement which, however, has not been concluded yet. Here, in contrast to other regions, a complicated multistage bloc is involved. First, there is the Minsk conference: It has not been called yet but has been legitimized as a forum to consolidate all the accords. Second, the Minsk group, consisting of 11 countries, is working with the sides to find conditions for a cease-fire. In addition, in between the sessions of this group, intermediary efforts are being carried on in various combinations and variants. This includes shuttle diplomacy by the Russian intermediary, Kazimirov, and five-sided meetings with the participation of Russia, the United States, and Turkey. It so happened that the conflict, by the agreement of the sides, has been referred to the CSCE for consideration. Iran is not part of the CSCE and therefore is not involved in these mechanisms. Nonetheless, it maintains regular contacts through bilateral channels with Moscow, as well as with other participants in the process.

Therefore no one is calling into question Iran's right to participate in a political settlement. The cause for the statement by the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry was the situation that has developed in the region as a result of Iranian troops approaching the border. Along particular sections of the border Iranian troops have crossed it and, according to some reports, were just 500 meters away from Karabakh units. It is hard to disagree with what Sergey Lavrov is saying, that these actions by Iran do not contribute to a normalization of the situation, especially now when all sides are trying to ensure an unconditional cessation of hostilities and a pullout of the Karabakh troops. The deputy minister responded negatively to the question as to how realistic is the introduction of international sanctions against Armenia, about which Turkey is particularly insistent. There is no reliable evidence to suggest that Yerevan supports Stepanakert, he said.

Kozyrev Hopeful on Bosnia Peace Prospects

PM1709080193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko Commentary: "Peace in Bosnia Possible Before Winter: Andrey Kozyrev Returns From Sarajevo Bearing That Hope"]

[Excerpts] After the ceremony in Washington which marked the beginning of peace in the Near East, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has plunged into the problems of another bloody regional conflict. He has been to Zagreb and Sarajevo, the capitals of the two Balkan states, where even fiercer interethnic wars still rage. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev has held talks with the leaders of Croatia and Bosnia, visited Sarajevo's central hospital, and met with the Belgian General Francis Briquemont, commander of the UN blue helmets in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The efforts of Russia's diplomats as well as the categorical demands of the United Nations and the CSCE have proved timely. The fighting in Serb Krajina has ceased and the Bosnian Serbs, Croats, and Muslims seem to be ready to return to the negotiating table. "Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be achieved in the near future," Andrey Kozyrev believes. But on condition that "all three sides involved in the conflict agree to the concessions that are needed next." In the Russian minister's opinion the main thing today is that "none of them continues gambling on strength." For his part, he stressed, Russia is ready to help achieve an accord among them at the UN Security Council.

Report of Chernomyrdin Letter on Lifting Yugoslav Sanctions

LD1609194093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1640 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 16 (TANJUG)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Thursday [16 September] that his country was "maintaining contact with the chief participants in the conflict" in the former Yugoslavia aimed "to end tragedy at the soonest" and set the stage for "a convincingly prospective raising of the question of lifting the sanctions against the F.R.Y. (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)."

This is said in Chernomyrdin's reply to a letter by Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic sent to him early August. in his letter, Kontic voices gratitude for the Russian Supreme Soviet's decision to propose the lifting of U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Information Ministry said. Chernomyrdin'u reply was delivered on Thursday to Kontic by Russian Ambassador to Yugoslavia Gennadiy Shikin.

Chernomyrdin stressed that "Moscow has been aware of an active role of the Yugoslav, Serbian and Montenegrin leaderships in the Geneva process" and of the "Belgrade

endeavours for a political settlement of the Bosnian conflict and the Yugoslav crisis as a whole."

On May 30, 1992, the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Yugoslavia, accusing it of an aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina although in this ex-Yugoslav republic there are no members of the Yugoslav army, and those taking part in the conflicts are the republic's three constituent peoples (Moslems, Serbs, Croats).

Kontic advised Shikin of a disturbing situation in Yugoslavia, especially ahead of the coming winter, when it urgently needs humanitarian aid it had sought. Shikin said his country's government was treating Yugoslavia's humanitarian aid requirements with utmost care and was investing concerted efforts towards an appropriate solution.

In this reference, says the Information Ministry in its announcement, the questions of a gradual lifting of the sanctions and the relevant efforts to this end were dealt with extensively.

Grachev Cancels Trips to Kaliningrad, Poland

LD1509134193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1306 GMT 15 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Sep—The trip by Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to Kaliningrad, and also his visit to the Polish Republic, planned for 16-18 September, will not take place. Doctors have recommended that he undergo three days of preventative treatment because of a worsening kidney ailment. The head of the Russian military department told journalists this today.

Reasons Assessed

PM1609155393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Vyacheslav Kocherov report under "The World and Russia" rubric: "Grachev Did Not Go To See Walesa"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, was to have begun his visit to the Polish Republic today. President Lech Walesa had expressed a wish to meet with the head of the Russian military department in connection with the completion of the Russian troop withdrawal from Polish territory. But Grachev did not go to see Walesa. The reason given was the minister's state of health.

Maybe so. However, other opinions are being expressed about the visit that wasn't. A high-ranking Defense Ministry officer said, in particular, that it is obviously connected with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's promise to accelerate the Russian troop withdrawal from Poland by three months, which he gave to Walesa during the recent meeting in Warsaw. "I do not think that this promise," my interlocutor remarked, "was made on the basis of any calculations. Apartments, of which there is a catastrophic shortage for the servicemen being withdrawn from distant and nearby foreign countries, do not grow on trees. An accelerated withdrawal must therefore be regarded as a 'present' from our supreme commander in chief to the Polish people. The reaction to it of our military personnel from the Western Group of Forces is well known. Evidently Gen. Grachev, who was invited to celebrate this with them, is simply ashamed to look his subordinates in the eye."

Yeltsin's Spokesman Views Hungary's NATO Membership

AU1609204393 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 16 Sep 93 p 3

[Interview with Anatoliy Krasikov, head of the press service of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, by Gabor Horvath in Moscow; date not given: "Moscow Does Not Believe in a Quick Hungarian NATO Membership"]

[Text] The attempt of some Central European countries to become NATO members as soon as possible attracts attention, not only in the relevant capitals and in Brussels. Our correspondent in Moscow asked Anatoliy Krasikov, head of President Yeltsin's press service, about the Russian position on this matter.

[Horvath] Many people interpret differently Yeltsin's recent declaration in Warsaw, in which he said Poland's NATO membership would not harm Russian interests. In your opinion, what did the president intend to signal with this statement?

[Krasikov] The essential thing is that the geopolitical situation has changed radically with the end of the confrontation between the two former regimes. The sovereignty of the NATO members and the former Warsaw Pact members has now become complete. Russia can no longer react the same way as the totalitarian Soviet Union might have reacted to the approach to, or cooperation with, NATO by certain countries. Of course, it is also obvious that deep changes have also begun within NATO itself. Today, it is still difficult to predict the direction in which NATO will further develop but, given the nature of its tasks, NATO will probably increasingly blend with the future European security system.

[Horvath] Is this also what Defense Minister Pavel Grachev meant when he declared that Russia would also request acceptance of NATO turning into a political organization?

[Krasikov] I do not exclude this possibility, but a lot of versions can be envisaged. Today's NATO is a totally different organization from the old NATO, and it will continue to change even more. The multipolar global political system in itself demands equal and friendly cooperation from the members of the former military organizations. Yeltsin's talks with Clinton in Vancouver and Tokyo prove that the relations between Russia and

the United States increasingly exceed partner relations and show a tendency toward an alliance.

[Horvath] Ruslan Khasbulatov often accuses the Foreign Ministry and Yeltsin himself of conducting their "own" foreign policy without the supervision of Parliament. How many foreign policies does Russia have?

[Krasikov] It has only one policy, namely that supported by the people during the presidential elections and in the subsequent referendum.

[Horvath] However, at the latest meeting of the Gorbachev Foundation, the chairman of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Ambartsumov declared that NATO membership of Eastern European countries would harm Russian interests.

[Krasikov] The Parliament is what it is. We also know this, and Hungary is also aware of this. Naturally, the presidential administration behaves with due respect regarding the various opinions formulated in Parliament, all the more so because we are in favor of pluralism not only in world politics but also at home. We also take into consideration criticism coming from deputies who can hardly be called parliamentary deputies, but it is absolutely wrong to claim that our president's foreign policy is weakening Russia or Europe.

[Horvath] In Yeltsin's entourage, what is the feeling about a quick—or slow—NATO membership of the Visegrad countries?

[Krasikov] Neither the West nor the Eastern European countries are ready for immediate membership. However, we do not regard this as an essential question; it does not have a dramatic nature, so we deal with this calmly. Sincerely speaking, we do not think that these countries will join NATO tomorrow. I, personally, am not quite certain about NATO's interest in this or the interest of the Eastern European countries. Actually, what we need now is the constant development of full cooperation between all countries in Europe and the world.

Reasons Behind Calls for Lukin's Removal Viewed

MK1709074793 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 2

['NG' report under the "P.S." rubric: "It Is Not Lukin Who Does Not Suit Foreign Ministry, But Forms and Methods of His Work"]

[Text] Publications in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, and, later, IZVESTIYA devoted to the fate of Russian Ambassador to the United States Vladimir Lukin have sparked a lot of speculation. A high-ranking official from the Russian Foreign Ministry claimed that the "textual likeness" in the first two publications raised suspicions in the ministry that two correspondents from two different newspapers had used the same source. As for the content of the publications, an appeal was heard from the building on Smolensk Boulevard [the Foreign Ministry seat] "not to overly dramatize" events. "An ambassador," it was said, "is a tool for the implementation of foreign policy devised by the president and the foreign minister." It could be inferred from the words of the Foreign Ministry source that Lukin was perfectly up to his job at the initial period of establishing a new relationship with the United States. Now that a shift should be made from loud and spectacular declarations to day-to-day, painstaking, nitty-gritty diplomatic work, the situation has changed, and this has created the need for appointing to the post of Russian ambassador to the United States a person who would act accordingly.

It was also confirmed that Boris Yeltsin harshly criticized Boris Pankin, Russian ambassador to London. Since the crux of the criticism does not have any bearing on diplomacy or policy, one can presume that the behind-the-scenes exchange of blows has sunk from the level of deputy prime ministers and vice presidents to that of the Foreign Ministry nomenklatura. Very often this tends to be prompted not by "ideological" differences, but by the personal plans of some politicians.

U.S. Army Chief of Staff To Visit

PM1609113393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 3

[Report by Roman Zadunayskiy, ITAR-TASS: "At the Invitation of the Russian Ground Forces Commander in Chief"]

[Text] General Gordon Sullivan, U.S. Army chief of staff, will pay an official visit to Russia from 18 through 23 September.

ITAR-TASS learned at the Russian Ground Forces press center that the U.S. military chief is coming to Russia at the invitation of Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Ground Forces. Gen Gordon Sullivan will visit Moscow, Ryazan, Irkutsk, and Khabarovsk.

U.S. Aid, Joint Projects in Space Program Detailed

LD1509162293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Report by correspondent Filippov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] More details about the Russian space program. At a news conference today, Yuriy Koptev, director general of the Russian Space Agency, reported that state financing of national space programs is only being implemented by approximately 50 percent. Of the 72 billion rubles allocated, only 37 billion have been transferred.

At the same time, U.S. partners are interested in our unique experience in aeronautics and space exploration. They are planning to allocate $400 million to Russia for space research before the end of 1997. In 1994, our aerospace firms will receive $100 million. This is the annual space budget of Argentina or Brazil. In reply, U.S. astronauts will make a series of lengthy flights on the "Mir 1" space station in 1995-1997. As reported by Yuriy Koptev, the main block of the "Mir 2" orbital station will be launched into space in 1996. A large U.S. module will then dock with it. By the end of the century, the station will receive a Japanese module and a module from the European Space Agency. International crews will work on the new station. Russian and U.S. experts are currently working on conditions for the participants in the project.

Official Comments on Uranium Processing Deal With U.S.

LD1609155493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russia and the United States may sign in October a deal on joint processing of weapons-grade uranium which was not concluded during Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's recent visit to the United States.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Viktor Mikhailov, Russian minister of nuclear power engineering, explained his optimism by the fact that the agreement is very beneficial to both countries from the economic and political standpoint.

"At present, the world market is oversaturated with uranium. However, Russia's share on this market is only 5-6 per cent, while the U.S. accounts for 50 per cent of the total. At the same time, many experts believe that uranium technologies in Russia are much better and that American plants need modernisation," Mikhailov said.

A joint Russian-U.S. commission has worked out a draft contract under which Russia will process uranium to be extracted from scrapped weapons and resell it to U.S. nuclear power plants. The 20-year contract envisages processing 500 tonnes of uranium (less than 50 per cent of the total amount to be recovered from scrapped missiles). The deal is estimated at 11.9 billion U.S. dollars, about 600 million dollars a year on the average.

Mikhailov regretted that at the last minute the United States put forth a political condition, demanding guarantees of proportional distribution of profits between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. He said the agreement will not be signed until this demand is withdrawn.

U.S. Helps Build Housing for Military; Ambassador Cited

PM1709103793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 1

[Sergey Filatov report: "America Has Taken Russian Soldiers to Its Heart. U.S. Government Promises Them Roof Over Their Heads"]

[Text] Tula Oblast—It was like the tower of Babel in the courtyard in front of the club at the "Dubrava" rural production cooperative in Tula Oblast's Volovskiy Rayon on 14 September. It was not just that probably all the local inhabitants, plus children, had gathered on the small patch of ground in front of the main entrance. The company was completed by almost 30 foreign visitors who stood out from the crowd by the plethora of professional camcorders, cameras, dictophones, and notepads they were carrying.

The locals and the journalists stood in the shadows of the Russian and U.S. national flags flying from the flagstaffs. Meanwhile Thomas Pickering, the ambassador from Washington, delivered a speech from the improvised platform mounted on the back of a trailer truck bedecked with a red cloth.

Nothing like this had ever been seen at the "Dubrava" cooperative before. Even a frail old man loudly voiced his approval of the proceedings instead of sharing his grievances with the crowd.

The occasion that had brought the foreign visitors to this modest village was a fitting one—it was the foundation stone laying ceremony of a future 30-house settlement for Russian servicemen withdrawn from the Baltic. The main feature of the project is the joint participation in it of Russia and the United States. It would be more accurate to call it an American-Russian project because it is the U.S. Government that is providing the money—$6 million—for the construction of nearly 450 homes in our country for demobilized officers. They will be built on specially allocated plots of land by Russian firms.

Sites for 460 [as published] one- and two-family dwellings have been set aside in Novosibirsk, Nizhniy Novgorod, Volgograd, Yeletskiy Rayon in Lipetsk Oblast, and here in Volovskiy Rayon in Tula Oblast.

"Why were you chosen in particular?" I asked Vladimir Nikonov, head of the local administration.

"Last year a limited partnership was created here between our own 'Dubrava' cooperative and the Russian-U.S. joint venture 'VEMO.' That was how contacts were established with the U.S. side and that is why part of the project for the construction of homes for servicemen will be carried out on our territory. We have free plots of land both to provide people with housing—up to one hectare per family—and to provide employment: Anyone who wants to will be able to work the land. We will be happy to receive returning officers into our village."

Thus the promises of U.S. help for Russia, promises which had become a source of some irritation, have finally begun to be carried out. "But in that case why is your government giving help to the Soviet Army [as published]? Is this another paradox of the postconfrontational period?" I asked Mr. Pickering.

"This is a very serious and important consideration," he replied. "After 70 years of profound disagreements in various spheres I believe that the time has come for Russia and America to live in peace. The military are people, too, and they know the price of peace better than anyone. The return of officers from the former Union republics presents them with a serious housing problem. We considered it very important to provide them with the conditions for creative activity in the civilian sector so that they have an opportunity to make their contribution to the development of the economy...."

In that case the Americans have undoubtedly earned a word of gratitude. Not just from the Russians who are receiving financial support for disarmament needs. They also deserve thanks from the Baltic region, from where correspondents were specially invited to cover the ceremony by the embassy.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher's message of congratulations on this occasion said that "this project cannot solve the housing problem in Russia" but "we are confident that in the future there will be new projects which will help to implement the reforms in the housing policy sphere." So does this mean that a start is going to be made on the well-known "Housing-2000" program?

Aspin Charged With Stating 'Old Stereotypes'

PM1609122193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev "Rejoinder": "Prisoner of the Past?"]

[Text] How difficult it is to rid oneself of the habits of the past! It would be bad enough if this were true of the man in the street alone. But no, it applies to politicians too. Perhaps even especially to them.

For example, the International Institute for Strategic Studies held its annual conference in Brussels just recently. As is usual at conferences, various reports were presented and speeches delivered. Among the speakers who took the floor was Les Aspin, head of the U.S. Defense Department.

Clearly he said the right things, especially from the U.S. viewpoint. For example, he stressed that one of America's main priorities at the forthcoming winter meeting of NATO heads of states and governments will be to continue the restructuring of the North Atlantic alliance. He announced America's intention to keep 100,000 servicemen in Europe along with a large quantity of arms and combat hardware "until 1999 at least." All very clear so far.

But then he suddenly seemed to think—whom I am addressing here? The European allies. But you have to use a different language with them. For example: Do you want to retain the U.S. military presence? Then be ready to respond to the new challenges, for example by participating in peacekeeping operations. Be ready to repel aggression against Western interests beyond the alliance's borders. Otherwise, apparently, there can be no guarantee that U.S. public opinion will support the retention of U.S. troops on the European continent.

The Pentagon chief continued in the same vein. For example, replying to a question he said that the United States and other NATO countries intend sending 50,000 servicemen to Bosnia-Herzegovina. And he immediately warned: It will be very difficult to convince the U.S. Congress to agree to the participation of U.S. forces in this operation unless the European allies provide at least one half of the proposed contingent.

Aspin is new to the Pentagon. But he is far from being a novice in politics, especially military politics. It is thus all the more surprising that he should treat his immediate partners to the old stereotypes and old approaches from the days when the United States was everything and the rest virtually nothing.

Many of us, whatever country we live in and whatever job we do, remain to some extent prisoners of the past. But you cannot stay there forever.

Palestinian Envoy Interviewed on Agreement With Israel

LD1609205193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Report on interview with J. Barakat, Palestine's ambassador to Russia, by unidentified "Vesti" correspondent in Moscow on 16 September; Barakat speaks in English, fading into Russian report; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The agreement achieved in Washington is a historic step in the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, Palestine's ambassador to Moscow declared today in an interview with "Vesti." Russia, in his view, played a most active part as a guarantor in the negotiating process.

This step will bring peace to the two peoples. For us the agreement also means a direct transition to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and, in nine months' time, from the West Bank. It also means the holding of elections for representative and executive power for five years. In three years' time, according to the ambassador, the difficult questions of the status of Jerusalem, the country's borders, and the status of refugees will be discussed. Independent states will be located on the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. But the Palestinian parliament, the ambassdor noted, has declared that economic interests will be best ensured by a confederation of Palestine and Jordan.

The ambassador recalled Kozyrev's words about Moscow's readiness to help Palestine's economy through training, technical assistance, and business meetings.

As for the explosions, the diplomat commented: Two-thirds of the Israeli population and three-quarters of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank support the agreement. We shall have a democratic discussion with the others. Opponents of peace will use bombs instead of applause. But that will not stop us in our progress towards a lasting peace.

IMF Delegation Assesses Russian Financial Policy

PM1709102393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Elmar Guseynov report: "Russia Might Not Receive New Credits From IMF This Year"]

[Text] "Russia has deviated so far from the pledges it adopted on receiving international aid that there can be no question at present of receiving a second line of such aid."

This is the comment of an economist, who wished to remain anonymous, on the situation which has taken shape during the visit to Moscow of an IMF delegation, which has now been continuing for a week.

At the beginning of this year Russia had already received $1.5 billion from the IMF. This was the first part of the long-promised money, which is given out so reluctantly by world bankers. The time has come to discuss the allocation of the next helping of dollars. But the fund's leadership has gotten serious misgivings about Russia's compliance with its pledges in the sphere of financial policy. It is to ascertain the situation on the spot that the fund's mission has been sent to Moscow.

J. Foglizzo, head of the IMF permanent mission in Moscow, told our correspondent that the situation surrounding the visit should not be dramatized. According to him, it is a routine working visit. The fund's representatives intend to hear from the Russian minister of finance a program for returning to the financial policy agreed with the fund and to assess the present state of the Russian economy. At the same time Mr. Foglizzo confirmed the fund's serious misgivings concerning Russia's fulfillment of its adopted pledges.

In the opinion of a number of observers, the continuous growth in prices, the ongoing inflation, and the political instability in Russia virtually rule out the allocation to it this year of new, no-strings IMF credits.

The latest IMF report on the state of the world economy has just been published. The situation in Russia and the republics of the former USSR has been called tragic. In the opinion of the fund's experts, the growth of prices last year by an average of 1,200 percent and the 20-percent fall in production are linked not only with placing the socialist economy on a new footing but also with gross mistakes in the sphere of financial and economic policy.

'Doleful' Effects of IMF Credit Freeze Predicted

PM1609165193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 4

[Yevegeniy Anisimov article under "Failure of the Week" rubric: "IMF Holding on to $1.5 Billion"]

[Text] By all accounts, the IMF's patience is coming to an end: Russia, which has systematically failed to meet its commitments, has been given a severe warning and threatened that the second half of the $3-billion credit will be withheld. We received the first $1.5 billion at the start of the summer, and that was one factor maintaining a steady ruble exchange rate. The reasons for the IMF's "meanness" are transparent: The government has gradually wound down the policy of reforms, and inflation has not only failed to fall to the promised 10 percent a month but has risen from 18 to 25-28.... Giving money in such conditions is like chucking it into a bottomless pit. Worse still even, this money could be used to prolong the death agony of doomed enterprises and whole sectors. We have been repeatedly warned, but clearly Ukraine's economic experiment has taught us nothing—we are increasingly heading that way. It can lead us nowhere but downhill, which is demonstrated perfectly clearly by the catastrophic fall in the value of the Ukrainian national currency, the emptiness even of food counters, and the accompanying stratospheric prices of all goods without exception.

If the IMF really does freeze the $1.5 billion, the consequences for the whole of Russia and many entrepreneurs will be doleful. First, the dollar exchange rate will rise considerably more quickly. The effectiveness of export operations will grow correspondingly, which may please exporters, but the state will at the same time be greatly tempted to take the enterprises' currency earnings. And, given the authorities' recent actions, the state will be unable to resist that temptation. The dearth of currency will almost certainly lead to cannibalism: The fattest—that is to say, the viable ones—will be consumed.

Second, the effectiveness of imports will fall. The ceiling of effective demand was reached long ago, and it is difficult to crank up prices even higher. Consequently, the counters of traders in imported goods, which have hitherto delighted the eye and persuaded people at least in this regard of the need to continue along the path of reforms, will empty.

Third, the 600 banks (members of the Paris and London Clubs of creditors), to which Russia owes considerable sums, will quite likely replace charity with anger and stiffen the credit-repayment terms and interest rates.

We may presume that the IMF's actions are simply a ploy initiated by the reformist wing inside our own government. The vice premier and finance minister, B.

Fedorov, still retains his job and his influence in international financial organizations. This version of events looks pretty credible when you bear in mind the Finance Ministry's intensifying pressure on the Central Bank of Russia and, as a counter to this, the widespread rumor that First Vice Premier Lobov is looking for someone to fill the finance minister's post.

One conclusion should be drawn from all the aforementioned: The economic situation cannot be stabilized in the near future so long as there is no political stabilization. If there is currency, it needs to be concealed; if there are export goods, they need to be held on to; while imports, on the contrary, need to be disposed of as quickly as possible.

India To Receive Rocket Engines, Not 'Technologies'

LD1609152693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1218 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russia will ship to India ready-made Cryogenic rocket engines, but will not transfer the production technologies, according to Deputy Director General of the Russian Space Agency Valeriy Alaverdov.

"The international regime of non-proliferation of missile technologies does not allow Russia to sell technologies to India", Alaverdov told TASS on Thursday, adding that basic principles of space policy concerning all agreements in space cooperation were agreed upon during recent talks with the US Space Agency.

Alaverdov doubted that Russia will have to pay compensations for the partial breach of the space deal and hopes the refund issue will be settled at talks with Indian counterparts. "Most evidently Russia will not have to pay a compensation. The deal needs further discussion and we hope to reach an understanding with India on the matter", he said.

Head of the Russian Space Agency Yuriy Koptev told TASS that Russia had ceded to us demands to refrain from selling missile technologies also because of financial reasons. It is more profitable to enjoy a possibility of commercial launches of satellites than to sell the technology.

"The Indian space programme costs only 200 million dollars, while one commercial launch of a satellite can yield 600-700 million dollars", he said, adding however that the observation of the non- proliferation regime was the major reason. "The talk here is not about mistrust to a concrete partner", Koptev stressed referring to India.

Health Cooperation Agreement Signed With India

BK1709044193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] India and Russia have signed a protocol on cooperation in the fields of public health and medicine. It provides cooperation between the Indian and Russian health workers and medical experts and is valid until the end of next year. The protocol was signed by Mr. R.L. Mishra, secretary, Department of Health, and the Russian health minister, Mr. E. Nechayev, in Moscow on Wednesday [15 September].

Burbulis To Create Cooperation Group With Japan

LD1609191693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—The "Strategy" politological and humanitarian centre has taken initiative in creating a committee for cooperation between Russian and Japanese people called "Doveriye" ("Confidence"), centre's chairman Gennadiy Burbulis told a press conference here on Thursday [16 September].

The press conference was devoted to the results of his recent visit to Japan.

According to the initiators, the committee might deal with coordinating the exchange of reformatory experiences between representatives of Russia's regions and people of various walks of life; arrange for an independent humanitarian and scientific examination of problematic issues in Russo-Japanese relations; make the resultant recommendations known to the parliaments and governments.

Burbulis said that he would soon inform Russian President Yeltsin, the Foreign Ministry and the common public of the results of his visit to Japan.

Touching upon domestic political situation, Burbulis pointed out that to create a political party oriented toward fundamental liberal interests was essential.

"One might call it provisionally "the party of constructive liberalism," he said.

Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Reports on Moscow Talks

LD1709011493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1901 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep—We regard the future of Russian-Thai relations very optimistically, despite the difficulties that presently exist in these relations. Thailand's Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said this at a

news conference held here today on the results of the two-day visit to Moscow by a delegation he led that included representatives from the Ministries of Industry, Agriculture, and Education, the Central Bank, and the national oil company, as well as major private entrepreneurs and bankers.

Phitsuwan said that the main topics at the consultations and talks held between the Foreign Ministries in the Russian capital were on the state of and prospects for the interaction between the two countries in ensuring a stable peace in the Asian-Pacific region, as well as on ways to increase trade and economic links. The deputy minister assessed highly the agreement signed in the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations during the visit on the establishment of a commission on bilateral cooperation—an intergovernmental body that will deal with the practical solution of questions concerning the development of relations between Russia and Thailand in the areas of trade, culture, and tourism.

"We, in turn, invite Russian representatives from both the state and private sectors to visit Bangkok and convince themselves that our intentions to develop mutually profitable links are not illusory but are real," Phitsuwan stressed. He confirmed the seriousness of his invitation by stating that the Thai Government has allocated 300,000 dollars for this purpose.

Meets Russian Counterpart

BK1709030993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Sep 93 p A2

[Text] Thailand and Russia should intensify political and security cooperation to improve regional dialogue and regional stability, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said yesterday.

Russia, despite its present economic difficulties, is still considered by Thailand as a major power which should be brought into discussions to work out a new regional security arrangement, Surin told his Russian counterpart Georgiy Kunadze, during a two-hour discussion.

Thailand appreciates Russia's intention to forge close ties with the region especially with Asean members, he said.

Surin also backed Russia's proposal for the creation of a centre to prevent conflict in Asia and the Pacific, and the establishment of an Asia-Pacific strategic research centre.

Russia proposed the two centres in May, during a consultative meeting in Singapore, as confidence-building measures to prevent disputes developing into armed conflict.

Kunadze said the Russian government attaches great importance not only to Asean as a group but also to its six member countries, which are in a position to initiate regional security dialogue.

Surin, on a five-day official visit to Russia, also urged Russia to express its views at the Asean Regional Forum which will be held in Bangkok next year in conjunction with the Asean ministerial meeting.

Asean agreed to invite Russia during its annual meeting in Singapore in July.

During the discussion, Surin and Kunadze exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues, including post-election Cambodia and the role of the United Nations.

Kunadze renewed Russia's offer to sell arms and other military items to Thailand. He said Thailand might also be interested in non-military equipment produced by the Russian army, such as tractors, collapsible bridges and civil engineering instruments.

On Cambodia, both ministers agreed that Prince Norodom Sihanouk is a central figure in uniting the Cambodian people.

Surin stressed the importance of all parties participating in the political life of Cambodia if peace is to last.

Kunadze said Russia supports the democratic process in Cambodia and urged that the people's mandate be respected. He told Surin Russia considers the Khmer Rouge "an extremist group".

Both ministers expressed a readiness to recognize the new permanent Cambodian government and help the country return to the international community with dignity.

In the afternoon, the Thai delegation had discussions with the Committee on Foreign Relations and identified projects and areas for cooperation and investment.

Surin is scheduled to visit St Petersburg for two days before leaving for Italy.

Communications Minister Reports on China Visit

LD1709063393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0537 GMT 17 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Oreshin]

[Text] Beijing September 17 TASS—By the end of the current year, 120 telephone communication channels are to operate between Moscow and Beijing instead of the currently operating three ones, Russian Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak told ITAR-TASS. He is ending his working visit to China on Friday.

During the visit, the two countries' communications engineers signed an inter-departmental agreement which is to promote better mutual understanding, cooperation and coordination of work.

The Russian side, the minister said, suggested building a Harbin-Khabarovsk communications line which in prospect will provide easier link between telephone subscribers in China and those in Russia and, through it, those in Europe.

The two sides also discussed the transit of mail across Chinese territory to Southeast Asia, mutual settlements and exchanges of specialists.

In general, prospects for cooperation between the Ministries of Communications of the two countries are wide and, considering the pace of the development of contacts between Russia and China, they will soon need thousands, not hundreds, of communications channels, Bulgak said.

The Russian delegation visited Shanghai where they familiarised themselves with the operation of communications agencies.

Chinese Officials Detain PRC Citizens in Maritime Kray

LD1609044393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0340 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok, 16 Sep—An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from a well-informed source that representatives of the Chinese authorities detained some citizens of their own country on the territory of Maritime Kray the other day, who were then taken across to their homeland. This action was carried out without the consent of the law enforcement bodies of Maritime Kray or of the Russian border guards, which is a violation of the laws of the Russian Federation.

Accord Signed With Australia on Spaceport

LD1509120793 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] An agreement has been signed on Russian and Australian organizations cooperating in setting up an international space port in the equatorial part of the Pacific. This was announced at a news conference in Moscow today. The preliminary cost of the project is believed to be about $900 million. Under the agreement, the launching of commercial satellites is to begin in 1998.

Among the Russian participants of the project are such well known firms as Glavkosmos and the Energiya research and production association.

The geographical location of the future space port and the potential of the Russian rocket carrier Proton will make it possible to put on earth orbit satellites weighing up to 5 tonnes.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Announces Gaydar Appointment, Lobov Transfer

LD1609165093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1612 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Gondusov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Balashikha (Moscow Oblast), 16 Sep—Today's visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the F. Dzerzhinskiy division of internal troops stationed in Balashikha ended in a political sensation. Completing his "military day" in the formation, the president told journalists that on 18 September he would sign a decree appointing Yegor Gaydar first deputy chairman of the Russian Government. The conflict between Oleg Lobov, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov will thereby be resolved, in the president's view. Gaydar has agreed, the president noted, and added that on 14 September he had thoroughly discussed cadre reshuffles with Viktor Chernomyrdin for two hours and, as a result, "we had arrived at the decision that it was Yegor Gaydar who should be appointed."

Boris Yeltsin made it clear that Oleg Lobov would be transferred to another post.

The president gave a positive response to a question about whether elections to the parliament would be held this autumn.

Also, he told journalists that he would have his next "military day" at exercises near Nizhniy Novgorod on 22 September.

Chernomyrdin Comments

LD1709081893

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 0500 GMT on 17 September carries a three-minute report by special correspondent Valeriy Kiosa on Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin's trip to Bryansk.

Kiosa reports that in reply to a number of commentaries alleging that Chernomyrdin went to Bryansk in order not to have to address the Russian Supreme Soviet session on 17 September, the premier said at Bryansk airport yesterday that an accord with the oblast administration on the trip was made two weeks ago. Its main aim is to visit the areas which have suffered from the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station [AES] accident. In Bryansk, Chernomyrdin also intends to meet with the heads of administrations of border territories of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Another reason for the trip, Kiosa reports, is the 50th anniversary of the oblast's anniversary from the fascist invaders.

"At this moment when I am broadcasting, the premier is setting off by helicopter for Krasnogorskiy Rayon in Bryansk Oblast, a zone of strict radiation control, where he will spend the whole of the morning."

Kiosa adds: "Viktor Chernomyrdin said that Yegor Gaydar's appointment as first deputy premier had been proposed by himself, that is to say, the proposal had been made by Chernomyrdin. He went to the president to submit this proposal. When reminded by journalists that Gaydar said in December 1992 that he would never join the Chernomyrdin government, Chernomyrdin said that since December a very great deal has changed.

"Gaydar understands these matters. He is aware of that. I had a long and detailed conversation with them. And now, Chernomyrdin said, he will do what the government will do, what the chairman of the government will decide.

"Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed the hope that the appointment of Yegor Gaydar, who will deal with the entire set of economic issues, will in many respects even strengthen the government's position. At any rate, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed once again that he had a very detailed conversation with Yegor Gaydar about this appointment and Gaydar said that he will carry out what the Government decided, what the chairman decided."

Gaydar Assesses Political, Economic Situation

PM1609131793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 3

[Interview with ex-Premier Yegor Gaydar conducted by correspondent Yuriy Yepanchintsev in Chelyabinsk; date not given: "'If I Were Chernomyrdin'—Yegor Gaydar on the Current Economic Situation"]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar was somewhat out of luck in Chelyabinsk—there turned out to be no flight to Omsk in the evening, and the ex-premier was clearly not taken by the idea of traveling in a trailer car on the Adler-Novosibirsk train. But "the father of the market economy" was rescued by Omsk entrepreneurs who chartered an AN-24 to fly to the Urals. Half an hour in Chelyabinsk and he—Gaydar the economist, Gaydar the politician, Gaydar the passenger—was again en route. The sun was shining through the window, our little plane was swaying gently above the clouds. Nothing was visible below. Where were we flying to?..

[Yepanchintsev] Yegor Timurovich, how would you describe the present state of the Russian economy?

[Gaydar] It is contradictory. There are signs of stabilization in a whole number of areas—hefty trade surpluses, a sharp reduction in inefficient imports, Russia's return to self-sufficiency in a number of foodstuffs, the growth in currency reserves, and the processes of structural reorganization now under way. But the economy has increasingly become the hostage of politics of late. Our political opponents are making every effort to ruin the

country's financial system and force their way into power. That constitutes an enormous risk factor. And, to be honest, I am very anxious about the economic prospects in the next few months.

The Supreme Soviet's policy of making large financial handouts which are not backed up by financial resources is forcing the government to delay funding of a whole series of very important programs, while local organs are being forced to reduce payments to the federal budget. And the fact that the reduction in payments to the state budget is an attempt to ruin Russia no longer needs proving.

[Yepanchintsev] How do you see events developing?

[Gaydar] There are two possibilities. On the one hand, there is an enormous risk of the "Ukrainianization" of the Russian economy: a sharp increase in the budget deficit and in the emission of money under the influence of populist decisions by the parliament and some organs of executive power. And on this basis there would be a fall in the ruble-dollar exchange rate, attempts to resolve the problem at the expense of accelerating inflation, and inflation itself reaching a level incompatible with the normal operation of market levers; the artificial fixing of the ruble exchange rate, the formation of a currency black market, and the establishment of an absolutely inefficient food [produkty] distribution system. I cannot rule out such a development of events, but it is a purely political scenario and I see no objective economic factors at all compelling us to go that way.

On the other hand, we can, on the contrary, work hard to stabilize the ruble, underpinning it with a responsible monetary policy. It will then be more effective to keep money in rubles rather than dollars and on that basis halt the flight of capital, create the prerequisites for reducing the rates of price increases, and bring inflation down to 3-4 percent per month next year. There is the possibility of gradually reducing the level of tax payments.

The Russian economy can build up its export potential, including high-tech exports, given our low labor costs—which is a serious market advantage. We can really start to grow economically in earnest from 1995, and that means growth in the population's domestic savings, a growth in domestic capital deposits, and a fall in interest rates for credit. In short, we are embarking on the standard path of economic growth, which has already been followed by South Korea, West Germany, Taiwan, Japan, and now Poland. But the realization of this economic potential is wholly dependent upon the creation of the political prerequisites. We are in a state of unsteady equilibrium today—we could tip one way or the other.

The best illustration of this is the fluctuation in the rate of the dollar. We now have a pretty good chance to pursue a stable exchange rate, and the Central Bank of Russia can maintain it for four to six weeks. But that is if it is buttressed by an appropriate monetary policy. While today we are taking around 800 billion rubles [R] in credit per month in the Central Bank, that is more or less compatible with a stable rate. But if, as of October, as we are being urged, we borrow R5 trillion, then you have to forget about stability and sharply increase the rate, otherwise a foolish squandering of the country's currency reserves will start up.

[Yepanchintsev] What would you now be doing in the government's place?

[Gaydar] I would make a number of basic technical decisions: I would abolish the mandatory state order for the delivery of foodstuffs by the countryside and mobilize extra currency reserves as a matter of urgency for noninflationary financing and regulation of the agricultural produce market. I would authorize the export of agricultural produce from Russia and I would start discussing questions connected with the possibility of protecting our home-produced agricultural products through tariffs. I would review the range of the government's subsidy commitments and make the decision to reduce the range drastically. The situation is such that either we provide a reliable political foundation for the economic transformations under way, or our economy will always be hostage to political games and populism, and in those conditions professionalism is not worth a red cent. We are therefore faced with choices now—we need to form an effective political structure capable of performing the role of the Liberal Democratic Party in Japan or the Christian Democratic Union in Germany and establish the foundation for a reliable, stable, and responsible market policy.

[Yepanchintsev] So now you have gotten involved in politics?

[Gaydar] The initiative in setting up the "Russia's Choice" bloc came from Aleksandr Yakovlev, and many people from the reformist list responded to it. Tha very idea of setting up such a broad political association united many people. What happened, after all, in the elections for heads of administration in a number of regions? The situation was almost standard everywhere: Several democratic candidates each get 8-9 percent of the vote while a single candidate from the communists and nationalists gets 35 percent, becomes head of administration, carries out a radical clearout of the apparatus, and changes the policy at local level. Gone is the time when we could afford to fight using the flat of our hand against an adversary skilled in the use of his fists.

[Yepanchinstev] You have visited several regions and have just returned from the Urals—from Yekaterinburg and Chelyabinsk. Were you supported there?

[Gaydar] The process of forming the bloc is not easy going, the personal ambitions of leaders get in the way, and often people are mistrustful toward one another. As a rule, there is no basis at local level for large parties which have something serious to offer at elections. As a rule, there is a powerful bloc of communists, a bloc of reformists, and centrists who are affiliated to neither the one nor the other. This is natural, there is no basis for a

"middle course" policy in radical Russia as yet, the basic historic decision has yet to be made. We will collaborate with a broad circle of groups of the population and must create not a small, minor party but the broad political association that is "Russia's Choice," because, unless we succeed in underpinning the process of refroms with a reliable political base, Russia can expect a constant succession of populist politicians who will ruin the economy once they have fought their way to power.

Gaydar Doubts Yavlinskiy's Qualifications for President

MK1709074293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" column: "Tomsk"]

[Text] Former Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar was asked at a news conference about Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's candidacy for the Russian presidency. Yegor Gaydar said: "I know Grigoriy Yavlinskiy well. I respect him as an intelligent man and a qualified economist. To my mind, he is a very subtle politician. He has a very strong political suit—he always knows when it is time to shrink from responsibility. I do not think, however, that this is the quality that a Russian president needs most."

Yeltsin's Planned Meeting of Regional Leaders Assessed

LD1609153393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has called a meeting of the heads of the representative and legislative bodies of power of Russia's republics, territories and regions, which is to take place in the Kremlin on Saturday [18 September]. Its participants will possibly sign an agreement on the formation of the Federation Council.

The word "possibly" in this contexts means that although almost 20 regions support the idea of the Federation Council on the whole, several amendments to the draft agreement have yet to be discussed. Presidential council member Leonid Smirnyagin called unacceptable the proposals put forth by "the leaders of some republics, territories and regions", as they boil down to the claim that the Federation Council should operate independently of the president and prime minister.

However, the very idea of the council was generated to facilitate contacts between the regions and the federal authorities. If the key figures from the country's leadership are excluded from the process of "communication", whom will the members of the council address their wishes?

To prevent the possible "abortion" of the Federation Council from the existing system of power, presidential council members Leonid Smirnyagin and Andranik Migranyan propose retaining the Constitutional Assembly as a counterweight to the Federation Council and legalising its provisional powers until a new parliament is elected or until the terms of office of the heads of administrations and councils who are memebers of the federation council expires. However, such "checks and balances" apparently do not suit some regional leaders.

President Yeltsin's meeting with the heads of the republics, territories and regions is to be held behind closed doors. Analysts do not rule out the emrgence of differences among the participants over the status of the federation council and the role of the president within it.

According to the draft agreement on the council, the president is to preside over it.

The post of the co-chairman of the Federation Council is assigned by the draft to the Russian parliament speaker. However, Ruslan Khasbulatov has not responded to this gesture of good will during the discussion of the conceptual framework for the Federation Council in parliament. He did say, however, that he saw no need for setting up a "supra-state" body.

Obviously in defiance of the president, he scheduled a meeting with the leaders of the soviets of all ranks for Saturday. It will evidently "divert" some of the potential participants from the Kremlin function.

This confirms once again the correctness of President Yeltsin's statement to last Tuesday's meeting of the Presidential Council that dual power in the country poses an increasingly grave threat to Russian society.

Yeltsin, Regions Contemplate Federation Council

PM1609141993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 1

[Lyubov Tsukanova report: "Federation Council: The Regions Are Biding Their Time"]

[Text] The forecasts of representatives of the president's administration on the possibility of convening the Federation Council at the beginning of September proved overoptimistic. After expressing a firm or guarded acceptance of the idea of the Federation Council at regional conferences, the heads of oblasts and krays are in no great hurry to give an official confirmation of their intentions. Nor are the republic leaders in a hurry, even though it was the members of the Council of the Heads of Republics in Petrozavodsk who supported the president in his initiative on convening the Federation Council. Despite the fact that 141 out of 176 components of the Federation have expressed their position one way or another, according to Igor Kharichev, a staffer of the president's administration, by no means all of them support the idea or the constituent documents in the form in which they were presented for discussion.

Where the heads of the regions are unanimous (and the positions of many have been confirmed at sessions or inner soviets) is in the consultative-deliberative [konsultativno-soveshchatelnyy] status of the Federation Council. Having learned from the bitter experience of the disputes between the branches of federal power, the regional leaders do not intend increasing the "scale" of the conflict, rejecting direct intervention in this conflict in favor of the position of "pressure by authority." This position cannot but be considered rational because today there is neither ideological unity nor absolute coordination of actions within the regional authorities either.

Without openly opposing the actual idea of the Federation Council, many leaders of the regions have subjected it to revision, often from opposing positions. There is doubt about the procedure for the creation of the Federation Council by means of agreement among the components of the Federation. But not because the procedure is flawed, rather because of the fear of the preponderance of the "president's side," since many heads of administration were not elected but were appointed by the president.

There is another area of debate—the correlation between the future organ and the future upper chamber of the future parliament. Whereas President Mikhail Nikolayev of Yakutia believes that in the long term the Federation Council could be the prototype for one of the chambers of the legislative organ of power, others prefer to distance themselves from this idea, fearing the "replacement" of the present Supreme Soviet by the Federation Council even at the "consultative-deliberative" stage.

The regions' opposition to the Federation Council as a possible organ of power seems paradoxical because, in theory, the new organ is weighted as much as possible in the interests of the local authorities. However, you begin to understand this if you take into account the ideological orientation of many leaders toward the Supreme Soviet, which today not only pursues the policy that the regions "need" but also provides them with a "cover" enabling them for the time being to play on the contradictions between the federal authorities. Involvement in the work of the Federation Council will cause many to "show their hand," which is in the interests of by no means all local leaders.

This is why, despite the apparent absence of opponents to the Federation Council, it has not been possible yet to secure even the two-thirds of the votes (119) needed for the signing of the agreement. Many generally prefer to keep silent for the time being, clearly waiting to see "who will prevail." In this situation the logical thing would be the direct participation of the president in the process of the discussion of the Federation Council documents, consultations with the "don't knows," and a clarification of positions aimed at dispelling false fears. This, in particular, is what Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, pressed for when expressing fears of a contrary influence on the local leaders from the leadership of parliament. Nevertheless, the president, like a number of leaders of the components of the Federation, is "biding his time" at the moment. Perhaps deliberately. Even without being suspected of trying to create an "unconstitutional" organ, he would possibly like to reduce as much as possible the pressure on participants in the future Federation Council. The president is undoubtedly taking a gamble here: The process could drag on so long that the Federation Council will no longer be able to significantly influence either the constitutional process or the conflict between the different powers. But when it is finally created it will want to function and do so in keeping with its own interests. It cannot be ruled out that then the president will have to confront new problems.

Chernomyrdin Speaks on Constitution, Economy

LD1609191093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1725 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russian prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has called "for effective accord in the development of a new Russian constitution, legitimacy of its adoption and new elections."

Speaking at a meeting with Russian deputies in Moscow today, Chernomyrdin said the Russian economy was showing signs of stabilisation. At the same time he pointed out that the crisis was growing deeper.

The Government cannot put up with the continuing decline in production which dropped by 12 per cent over August last year, Chernomyrdin said. In the fuel industry, ferrous metallurgy and machine-building it decreased by 15-16 per cent, while in petrochemical and building materials industries it was as low as 20 per cent.

The premier said urgent measures taken by the Government helped improve the situation in the defence industry and partially in the production of some types of heavy machinery.

Chernomyrdin said incoming reports allow the Government to say that grain crop this year may reach 110-120 tonnes [as received].

Chernomyrdin believes the Government's course towards financial stabilisation has already brought positive results. He said September should become a crucial month, provided the Government continues its fiscal policy. He expressed the hope that the Government will be able to keep the country's financial system from collapse in the fourth quarter of the year. "Only a decrease in inflation may provide for success of reform and overcoming of the crisis," the prime-minister said.

To fix the economy, the Government plans to take a set of concrete measures, including establishing a budget fund for support of agriculture, power engineering and

the coal industry. Additionally, there will be considerable cuts in imports of raw materials and food products covered from centralized hard currency funds and foreign credits. The Government is also working out a mechanism for attracting long-term commercial investments to the production sphere.

Two Deputy Foreign Ministers 'Released' From Duties

LD1709094993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0914 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the president of the Russian Federation has announced that on instructions from the president, on 16 September, Andrey Kolosovskiy and Grigoriy Berdennikov, deputy foreign ministers of the Russian Federation, were released from their duties in connection with their transfer to other work.

Government Leaders' Activities Reported

PM1709090593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Executive Branch: Monitoring"]

[Excerpt] **Meetings, Sessions, Conferences**

Yesterday Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin attended a session of the Russian Federation Security Council. It examined ways of halting the conflict between North Ossetia and Ingushetia. The session was attended by Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, and Ruslan Aushev, president of Ingushetia. It must be noted that Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, who, as is known, has resigned from the post of Russian Federation Security Council secretary, was present at the session.

In the afternoon Viktor Chernomyrdin met with U.S. Treasury Under Secretary L. Summers, with whom he discussed a wide range of questions pertaining to Russian-American economic and financial links.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov also met with U.S. Treasury Under Secretary Summers and with U.S. Ambassador to Russia T. Pickering. In the morning Lobov, along with other members of the cabinet, attended the Security Council session. In the afternoon he received A. Pavlov, deputy chief of the Maritime Kray Administration, and then Yu. Matochkin, chief of the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration. There was a discussion of questions of economic links between Russian Federation krays and oblasts.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray delivered a report at the Security Council session. In the evening he received Wu Dinghua, deputy chairman of the Chinese Nationalities Committee. Shakhray also participated in an international conference on the problems of small indigenous peo]ples.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays's attention was focused on the conference of chairmen of territorial committees of the State Property Committee and territorial agencies, taking place at the Russian Academy. The discussion was mainly about the privatization process in the country.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin attended a session of the Foreign Exchange and Economic Commission. It examined questions pertaining to Russia's foreign hard currency debt and other problems of foreign exchange relations between Russia and the EC countries.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov attended the Security Council session. The rest of the day was devoted to dealing with current business.

Today members of the Russian Federation Government meet with people's deputies, your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent was told at the Russian Federation Government Press Service. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers Presidium session that normally takes place Thursdays will not be held today.

Statements

"Russia is interested not so much in details or in polishing up certain articles of the agreement with the European Community as in the political significance of the actual signing," Russian Federation First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov said at a meeting in Moscow with Pablo Benavides, head of the EC delegation at the talks with Russia. "If we sign the agreement in the very near future it will be the best way of demonstrating to the world that the EC is actively supporting the reforms in Russia, not just in words."

Agreements

Russian Federation Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and Republic of Georgia Prime Minister Otar Patsatsiya signed an intergovernmental agremeent in Moscow on the economic revival of areas in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict zone. Agreements were also signed on rescheduling the industrial credits debt in accordance with the 1992 results on nontrade payments and on settling succession questions relating to the state debt and assets of the former USSR.

Regions

Krasnoyarsk Kray Administration chief Valeriy Zubov described the initiative by the leaders of federal organs of authority and representatives of the regions on creating a Russian Federation Federation Council as an attempt to ease the political tension and make it possible to reach an agreement in the interests of all the regions. In this connection Zubov criticized the decision by the kray inner soviet that it was inadvisable that the kray soviet chairman participate in the Federation Council's work. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin To Meet Democratic Leaders 18 Sep

LD1609133293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1216 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Yeltsin's meeting with leaders of the Public Committee of Russia's democratic organisations, scheduled for Friday [17 September], will be a sort of "reply" to the criticism levelled against the president by Presidential Council members for the dragged out pause in the work with parties. The foregoing committee unites several dozens of parties of radical- democratic orientation.

The "Democratic Option" organisation, affiliated to the Public Committee of Russia's democratic organisations, has published an open letter to President Yeltsin on the results of a recent press conference. It "unconditionally supports" the idea to set up a Council of the Federation, which, the authors of the message believe, will accelerate the holding of pre-term elections. The authors of the letter are disturbed by the repeated postponement of the resumption of the work of the Constitutional Conference. The committee's second open letter tried to persuade the president that it was "impermissible" to accept first Vice-Premier Oleg Lobov's proposals to amend the principles of voucher privatisation and to toughen administrative control over the financial market.

As a matter of fact, Yeltsin had reconsidered his decision on Lobov's initiatives the day before and instructed Prime Minister Chernomyrdin to reach accord on the disputed points within the Cabinet of Ministers.

As to the pre-term elections, formation of the Council of the Federation, and the resumption of the work of the Constitutional Conference, Yeltsin described all these political steps at a meeting of the presidential Council as most important measures to surmount dual power in the country.

Hence, there are no differences on fundamental problems of current policy between the president and leaders of the Public Committee of Russia's democratic organisations. Yeltsin's forthcoming meeting with the committee leaders is most likely to discuss the tactics for attaining the set goals, for instance, the date of the elections, ways to adopt constitutional laws for the transitional period, and the status of the Council of the Federation.

Meeting Cancelled

LD1609162293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Ekho Moskvyy announces that its radio has learned that the meeting between the president and representatives of the Public Committee of Russian Democratic Organizations announced for tomorrow—I mentioned this in Panorama [radio program]—this meeting between Yeltsin and the representatives will not take place. Ekho Moskvyy says this has been announced by Boris Yeltsin's news service.

Bunich Outlines Aims of 'Democratic Initiative'

PM1609152993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 2

[Interview with Pavel Bunich, cofounder of the "Democratic Initiative" social organization, by unnamed ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent; place and date not given: "Soon There Will Be 100,000 of Us, Pavel Bunich, Cofounder of the New Social Organization 'Democratic Initiative' Recently Registered at the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, Says in an Interview With Your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Correspondent"]

[Text] [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] What is the reason for the title that you have chosen for the organization?

[Bunich] By "democratic" we wanted to stress that we unconditionally adhere to democratic positions. The word "initiative" contains an implicit criticism of what is going on in Russia today and what we do not accept: the petty squabbling, the corruption, and the endless struggle that everyone is engaged in. For us the name "Democratic Initiative" has approximately the ring of "Russia's challenge" but with no undue emotionalism and clamor.

Our party's support structure is the Union of Entrepreneurs and Leaseholders of Russia. Politically powerful individuals have developed within it capable of offering society constructive ideas.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] How would you characterize your party's philosophy and, in your opinion, whom could it rely on for support?

[Bunich] We are not a party of agrarians or a party of entrepreneurs. I would say that we are a party of like-minded people, in other words, people who, regardless of class, territorial, or economic position, share the same world outlook.

Economically we are unquestionably pro-market. However, we do not want a watered-down unprincipled course that indulges all loss-making enterprises and disorients those who have decided to work in the new way. While supporting the principle of the reforms we are against the permanent continuation of "shock therapy" in the economy. If Gaydar's market ideas and our own were represented by two large circles they would largely overlap but there would be quite a few differences.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Every political party strives after power. You presumably have set yourselves such an aim too.

[Bunich] We want to exert influence on the government's current activity. To begin with we would like to put forward our own candidates for parliament. Possibly we will manage to promote from our own ranks people

capable of occupying places in the government too. I personally am convinced that today, when the country is at the crossroads, there cannot be a coalition cabinet of ministers. We want ministerial posts occupied by professionals.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Do you not fear that "Democratic Initiative" will become full of hundreds of small but clamorous "parties" whose voice is insignificant even in the neighboring rayon, let alone across Russia?

[Bunich] I believe that we will manage to avoid that danger. Do not forget that our party's organizational basis is the Union of Entrepreneurs and Leaseholders, which has 10 million people in 57 regions of the country. No one has a structure like that.

We think that "Democratic Initiative" will eventually acquire at least 100,000 members. They will have special party cards. We have rejected in principle the system of rayon committees as well as the method of recruiting prominent names into the leadership.

As for funding for our activities, we are pinning our hopes very much on sponsorship contributions from people who sympathize with our ideology.

There is much in Russia's political and economic situation that displeases us. What is the option: to wait for conditions to change or join in the struggle ourselves even if there is no great hope of success? We choose the latter.

Entrepreneurs Group Announces Second Congress

MK1709081793 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 3

[Olga Garbuzova report: "Konstantin Zatulin Gives Press Conference. Industrialists May Join Forces With Entrepreneurs"]

[Text] Yesterday, Konstantin Zatulin, leader of the "Entrepreneurs for a New Russia" all-Russian association, gave a press conference announcing that this organization would hold its second congress 24-26 September. It is expected that the September forum will adopt the association's political platform.

Konstantin Zatulin described the results of the association's work last summer: Regional branches were set up in Sochi, as well as in Arkhangelsk, Vladimir, Irkutsk, Kemerovo, Nizhniy Novgorod, and other oblasts. Another 14 regional organizations are in the formative stage.

Apparently, the leaders of "Entrepreneurs for a New Russia" decided to put off explanations as to their stance on early presidential and parliamentary elections until the congress in Kemerovo. Konstantin Zatulin at least would not answer a specific question about an early election, saying only: "What if that same old pack of Moscow leaders is re-elected? What if these elections turn out to be flawed as far as their legitimacy is concerned?"

The association's stance on the subject may differ from that of some of its expected allies—for example, the Economic Freedom Party, which stands for calling simultaneous early presidential and parliamentary elections.

The press conference gave attention to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who has recently been seen as a popular politician. Zatulin described him as a man "who is not riding in front of the association on a hot horse but is somewhere on the sidelines," adding that his association was not intent on "privatizing Yavlinskiy." This statement could well be interpreted as indirect proof of recent rumors that Zatulin has fallen out with Yavlinskiy.

Another noteworthy statement was that Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, would attend the second congress. It is well known that the leaders of "Entrepreneurs for a New Russia" have from the outset taken titanic efforts to court directors of large enterprises into their organization. To all appearances, Konstantin Zatulin has succeeded in doing this.

'Little-Known Politician' To Run for President

LD1609112093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1056 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—A little-known politician announced Thursday [16 September] he would run for the Russian president at the next elections and added he was sure to win.

Vladimir Voronin, chairman of the Centrist Bloc of political parties which unites 19 small political organisations, told reporters, however, that he is supported by "several million people".

"We won't be satisfied with the second or the third place" in the elections, added Voronin who failed to become a presidential candidate during the 1991 presidential race.

He called on Boris Yeltsin and the leadership of the parliament to "unconditionally agree and announce early elections of both branches of authority", which according to Voronin, can be held in 5-6 months.

Voronin's bloc has no major political pan-Russian parties and no clear-cut political programme. However, it has worked out its own draft constitution which appeared in a private newspaper published by Voronin himself.

Voronin became the third man to announce his intention to run at the elections. Earlier Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and noted economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said they would compete.

Court Rules Against Yeltsin's Decree on Cossacks

LD1509125893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1215 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Sep, ITAR-TASS—The Russian Constitutional Court has completed its examination of the application submitted by the Russian Supreme Soviet to verify the constitutionality of the decree by the country's president, dated 15 March 1993, "Concerning the Reform of Military Structures, the Border and Internal Troops on the Territory of the North Caucasus Region of Russia, and State Support for the Cossacks" in particular the section concerning military service by the Cossacks. A statement issued today by the Constitutional Court press service states this.

The Supreme Soviet opines that the president's decree establishes a special procedure for the carrying out of military service by the Cossacks, and in view of this is not in keeping with the Russian Federation's Constitution, from the viewpoint of the division and demarcation of powers between the legislative and executive authorities.

The court has concluded that as far as its content is concerned, the decree does not establish a special procedure for the carrying out of military service by the Cossacks, and nor does it create new types of military groups or units.

The court has confirmed that the Cossacks are bound by the legally enshrined principle of the extraterritorial basis of recruitment to the country's Armed Forces, and stressed the inadmissibility of broader interpretation of the provisions of the presidential decree implying that Cossacks have been given any sort of preferential treatment or advantages, notes the statement by the Constitutional Court press service.

Court Rejects Ingush President's Petition

LD1609185893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Russia's Constitutional Court today rejected the petition from President of Ingushetia Ruslan Aushev for an inquiry into the constitutionality of a number of resolutions adopted by North Ossetia's Supreme Soviet on Prigorodnyy Rayon being firmly attached to North Ossetia, and on Vladikavkaz's status being defined as subordinated to the republic. The decision of the Russian Constitutional Court says that the Supreme Soviet of Russia makes the decisions on delimitation of state territory, along with the state commission in charge of determining Ingushetia's borders, RIA reported.

Military Issues

Yeltsin Visits Internal Troops Division

PM1609184793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Vyacheslav Kocherov report under "Visit" rubric: "Dzerzhinskiy Troops Inspected"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin spent his latest "military day" yesterday with the Internal Troops F. Dzerzhinskiy Division in Balashikha, near Moscow. Having promised during his recent visit to the Taman division, Kantemir division, and airborne troops to spend a day with military subunits, the president kept his word. And there was only a two-week interval between the two visits to the troops. On the eve of the trip to Balashikha this was a fact that some journalists emphasized, recalling the September "decisive encounter" promised by the president.

But, as was the case during his recent visit to Moscow Military District soldiers, Yeltsin did not utter a word about any reasons for his coming to Balashikha other than the desire to make a more in-depth study of the problems and sentiments among the troops. During his visit to the Dzerzhinskiy troops he familiarized himself with the servicemen's everyday life and combat training and observed special training drills.

The Internal Troops soldiers had a lot to show the supreme commander in chief and a lot to talk about with him. The division, which will be 70 years old next summer, has a rich history. The division's soldiers participated in the Afghan War. In recent years its personnel have constantly been carrying out missions in various interregional conflicts, standing between warring sides.

As is known, on the eve of the Moscow Olympics the division formed a special-purpose subunit called the "Crimson Berets" to combat especially dangerous crimes. The F. Dzerzhinskiy Division's special-purpose troops are particularly famous in the Internal Troops. The soldiers demonstrated their skill to the president.

Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of Internal Troops, expressed the hope that the eminent guest's visit would facilitate the solution of those problems which in recent years have been difficult to overcome, even for the Internal Troops' elite formations.

Yerin Comments

LD1709023093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1707 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Balashikha (Moscow Oblast), 16 Sep—"The battle readiness of our internal troops should not be worse than that of the assault landing troops in the case of sharp deterioration of the situation," Internal Affairs

Minister Viktor Yerin stressed in his conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

The head of the department that is upholding law in the country, together with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, visited the Feliks Dzerzhinskiy division today. At the same time, Yerin noted that the internal troops should have their own specific character, in particular, a knowledge of legal questions and the ability to document crimes.

"In the future, we will try to depart from the escort duties of the internal troops. This will allow them to concentrate their efforts on solving operative tasks in the state of emergency zones and in cases of mass disorder and to take a more active part in protecting law and order in big cities," the minister of internal affairs of Russia believes.

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Military Draft

PM1609134793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "On the Draft of Russian Federation Citizens for Military Service in October-December 1993 and on the Discharge Into the Reserve of Soldiers, Sailors, Sergeants, Petty Officers, and Military Construction Troops Who Have Completed the Set Period of Military Service"]

[Text] By edict of the president of the Russian Federation dated 13 September 1993 on recruitment to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and other troops and military formations, citizens of the Russian Federation born between 1966-1975 with no right to deferral are to be drafted for military service in the Russian Federation Armed Forces and other troops and military formations in October-December 1993.

According to a report from the Russian president's press service, the edict also orders the discharge into the reserve in October-December 1993 of soldiers, sailors, sergeants, petty officers, and military construction troops who have completed the prescribed period of military service.

The Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government and organs of executive power in the republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are instructed to ensure the fulfillment of the measures connected with the draft of citizens for military service.

The soldiers, sailors, sergeants, petty officers, and military construction troops discharged from military service and those people drafted into military service shall, as a rule, be transprted as detachments in passenger trains or on aircraft (ships) according to a special timetable.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Railways and the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport have been instructed to allocate the requisite quantity of rolling stock and aircraft (ships) or seats in passenger trains and aircraft (ships) in response to requests from the corresponding command, to provide transport for the aforementioned people within the set timetable and while ensuring safety, and to pay for such transport at the current agreed rates.

Border Troops Commander Addresses Conference

PM1509112993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 1

[Andrey Aleshin report under "From Our Information Bureau" rubric: "If Officers Have Authority There Will Be Discipline"]

[Text] Border Troops Press Office—A conference of the leadership of the Russian Federation Ministry of Security Border Troops was held 8-9 September in Moscow. Issues relating to the strengthening of military discipline, the state of unit administrative and support services, and preparations for the winter were discussed at the conference.

In his speech to the conference, Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of the Border Troops, noted that one of the main aspects of strengthening military discipline among the troops involves increasing the authority of the officer corps.

Those attending the conference gave Colonel General Ilya Kalinichenko, former commander of the Border Troops, a ceremonial send-off into the reserves.

New Nuclear Submarine Joins Pacific Fleet

PM1609114393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 3

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "Nuclear Addition to the Fleet"]

[Text] Having completed the voyage under the Arctic ice from the Northern Fleet to the Pacific Ocean, the atomic submarine bearing the name Kasatka arrived at its permanent station in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka 12 September.

According to a report from the Navy press center, the crew and mechanisms of the new nuclear submarine came through the voyage with honor and the Kasatka will now hoist the St. Andrew's flag and join the Pacific Fleet combat strength.

'Discontent' of Military-Industrial Complex 'Growing'

PM1709092393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 2

[Igor Chernyak report: "Will the Military-Industrial Complex Soon Be Sweeping Floors?"]

[Text] The situation in Russia is becoming more and more explosive. According to reports from confidential sources, there is growing discontent among force structures and particularly within the military-industrial complex. The reason is that the state cannot find the money. Not only is there not enough money to raise the pay of officers and men of the Defense Ministry, Security Ministry, and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] to the level set by the Russian Federation Government itself (this will require 131.9 billion rubles [R] for the military, R19 billion for the security men and border guards, and R63 billion for the military and the internal troops) but even for the regular payment of wages. Back on 27 July the three power ministers sent the government a letter asking that it carry out its own decrees and Russian laws and produce a corresponding draft decision, as previously agreed. But nothing came of it. The state currently owes the Army R1.7 trillion for the upkeep of the troops, including food provision, housing construction for units withdrawn from our immediate neighbors and farther afield, and so forth. Some R400 billion has not been paid to defense-sector enterprises for tanks, aircraft, and guns that have already been produced on the orders of the state—that is, the government. The leaders of the Defense Ministry and the State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry categorically disagree with [Finance Minister] Boris Fedorov's proposals to sharply cut defense orders for 1994, claiming that this will not only finally destroy Russia's defense industry but will lead to huge expenditure in providing compensation for the damage done to enterprises. The military and the military-industrial complex are supported by [First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers] O. Soskovets, [Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers] A. Shokhin, and, according to certain information, [Chairman of the Council of Ministers] V. Chernomyrdin himself.

The problem is compounded by the fact that the 6 million people employed by the military-industrial complex do not always receive even their miserable wages, which, as Russian Federation presidential adviser Mikhail Maley put it, are lower than those of a cleaner in the Kremlin. According to calculations by military experts, some 40 million people currently employed in the sphere of ensuring the country's defense capability and security have been shortchanged. Premier Chernomyrdin has been meeting with vice premiers and representatives of the Russian Federation Defense and Finance Ministries virtually every day on this subject, but without result as yet.

Grachev Signs Order Marking Tank Troops' Day

PM1609075993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Sep 93 p 1

["Russian Federation Defense Minister's Order of the Day No. 425" to mark Tank Troops' Day]

[Text] Russian Federation Minister of Defense Order of the Day No. 425, 11 September 1993, Moscow:

Comrade soldiers and sailors, sergeants and petty officers, ensigns and warrant officers, and officers!

Comrade workers, technicians, engineers, and designers of the defense industry!

Comrade veterans of the tank troops!

Tomorrow our country and the Russian Federation Armed Forces celebrate Tank Troops' Day.

The history of our national tank troops is an impressive picture of the outstanding labor feat of scientists, engineers, and workers, and the courage and bravery of our tank troops. Russia was the first country to have the idea of constructing all-terrain combat vehicles and to elaborate the first tank designs and experimental tank prototypes. The combat might of our armored tank troops was most fully demonstrated in the harsh years of the Great Patriotic War. Their role was particularly significant in the battles of Stalingrad and Kursk and in the Belorussian, Vistula and Oder, Berlin, and other major operations.

Major changes occurred in the tank troops during the postwar years. Their combat capabilities, firepower, maneuverability, mobility, reliability, and other qualitative parameters all increased. Today's tank troops are still the principal strike force of our Ground Forces.

At this difficult and crucial period of the rebirth of the Russian state and the far-reaching reform of its Army, the tank troops servicemen together with the personnel of the Armed Forces are fittingly carrying out their military duty and urgently addressing the tasks of increasing combat readiness, mastering the latest weaponry and military hardware, and strengthening military discipline and organization.

I greet and congratulate you on your holiday—Tank Troops' Day!

I wish all tank troops personnel further success in increasing their combat skills. I express confidence that tank troops servicemen will continue to reliably ensure Russia's security through their selfless military labor.

I wish defense workers success in their labor and improvements in their production and economic indicators in the name of strengthening the country's defense capabilities.

I wish tank troops veterans good health and success in educating young people in the spirit of loyalty to military and civilian duty and to their people and the Fatherland.

To mark Tank Troops' Day I order:

That a festive firework display be held 12 September 1993, at 2200 hours local time, in the hero-city of Moscow, capital of our Motherland, and in the hero-cities of St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Novorossiysk, Tula, Smolensk, and Murmansk.

[signed] Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation Defense Minister

Space Issues

Cosmonauts To Install 'Rapana' Equipment on Mir Complex

LD1609094093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] [Announcer] Here is Vladimir Bezyaev with today's news.

[Bezyaev] Good morning, esteemed listeners, good morning, esteemed announcer. Mayak Panorama will finish in just a few minutes, at 1005, and at this very time Vasiliy Tsibliyev and Aleksandr Serebrov, two members of the crew of the 14th main expedition to the orbital complex Mir, having probably sang: Open the gate quietly [phrase from a well-known Russian romance], will, as they like joking, have a breath of fresh air on the surface of the orbital complex Mir. This walk will be the first in a whole series of walks; there will be three of them. Their main aim is to set up on the surface of the station a new, unusual framework. It is called Rapana. On the one hand, the designers probably had Rapana in mind, a well-known shell-fish, and on the other hand, the abbreviation means Razvertyvayemyy Panelnyy Agregat—fold-up panel unit. It is made from the materials of the future. These frameworks will be installed on new stations, such as Mir-2, possibly on American Freedoms, and on our future international stations. These are the materials of the 21st century. The task here is relatively simple, but difficult at the same time. What goes into space must be compact, lightweight, but at the same time be big enough once there. First of all they will install the equipment, the platform. During the next walk, on 20 [September], they will open up this framework. These installations are produced with new technology, from materials that have the so-called memory of shape, i.e. they remember [the shape] and unfold once heated. Later, samples of new materials that will be used in the 21st century will be placed on it.

The third walk, which will take place on 24 [September], will probably also be very interesting. For the first time the aim will be to examine the station. Mir was not designed to be used for such a long time, but it works, and will still work for a long time. Aleksandr Serebrov once said to me that he would guarantee another five years. New interesting work will be carried out there with American shuttles, and unusual passengers, who will spend an unusually long time there, like one-and-half years.

There are also plans for an unusually long stay for women. Normally they spend only two weeks there, while this time a woman will be at the station as long as six months. There will be much more. So, the hatch opens at 1005, and at 1414 work should be finished, but space is space, anything can happen. We will have to keep an eye on what is going on out there.

'Kosmos' Satellite Launches From Baykonur Reported

Zenit Satellite 15 Sep

LD1509121793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At 0950 hours Moscow time a "Zenit" launch vehicle was launched from the Baykonur cosmodrome with a space satellite of the "Kosmos" series on board. The launching was carried out within the framework of the military-space program of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry.

'Kosmos-2263' 16 Sep

LD1609133893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, September 16 (TASS)—The space mission control centre reported on Thursday the "Kosmos-2263" satellite was launched into space by a "Zenit" booster from the Baikonur cosmodrome on September 16, 1993.

The satellite carries scientific equipment to continue space explorations.

The satellite was put into orbit with the following parameters:

initial period of revolution—102 minutes,

apogee—880 kilometers,

perigee—852 kilometers,

orbital inclination—70.6 degrees.

Apart from scientific equipment, the satellite carries a radio system for exact measuring of orbital elements as well as a radio system to transmit data to the earth on the operation of instruments and equipment.

Equipment aboard the satellite functions normally. The coordination-computing centre is processing incoming information.

Cosmos-2264 Spacecraft 17 Sep

LD1709101693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1000 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—the Cyclone-M carrier rocket with the Cosmos-2264 space vehicle was successfully launched today, at 04.43, Moscow time, by the Russian military space forces off the Baykonur space launch complex. The space vehicle was put into orbit close to the calculated one, a spokesman for the press centre of the military space forces told ITAR-TASS. The carrier rocket and the space vehicle were launched in the interests of the Russian Defence Ministry.

Mars Research Program Detailed

LD1609152193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1215 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Semyon Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—The Mars research programme (Mars-94) which will be a key element in the study of the solar system for the next 10-15 years, has been drafted in detail in Russia.

The launching in October 1994 of two interplanetary probes for remote and direct investigations of Mars's atmosphere and surface as well as near-Mars space will mean the start of the programme's implementation. Provision is also made for performing measurements along the flight's route.

The Mars-94 programme has an international status: Some instrumentation for its implementation is being manufactured in the United States, Britain, Germany, Denmark and Sweden. The Lavochkin Scientific and Production Amalgamation is the main contractor from the Russian side.

Will the launching of the probes flag off another programme? Many Russian researchers are convinced that inadequate financing and even complete lack of funds sometimes can put an end to promising space explorations.

President of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yuriy Osipov and Director-General of the Russian Space Agency Yuriy Koptev plan to deliver reports at a recent meeting of the Russian Government on the implementation of the state space programme for 1993-1994.

Media Issues

Ostankino Directors Appeal to Yeltsin on Fourth Channel

LD1609181793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1535 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Continuing our news and music panorama, I would like to read you the contents of a document that has just been passed to me. It is the text of an appeal by the Council of Directors of the Russian Ostankino State Television and Radio Company to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. It says, in part, that for several weeks now, rumors have been building up about the transfer of a fourth Ostankino channel into the hands of a newly-created commercial television and radio company, financed by commercial banks, in particular, the Most [Bridge] Group. We believe, the appeal says, that at the present time, it is precisely you—the president—who can decide whether truly independent television can develop in Russia or whether commercial television, under the diktat of a number of finance groups, will be formed very quickly. Ostankino's fourth channel is merely the first step in a money war with professional information structures, and if it is taken, then it will not be difficult to seize everything else during a crisis in the financial system. The Council of Directors of Ostankino does not rule out the possibility of the Most Group joining this company as joint stockholders, stating that it will be able to find a worthy use for its money within the framework of a general television company. At the same time, it is being emphasized that the fourth Ostankino channel carries a media certificate of registration, and as a structure, Ostankino has the right to broadcast on this frequency. Therefore, it may be closed down or reorganized only on the basis of the law on the media. The address to the president expresses the hope for understanding of this position, which, in present conditions, is the only one that will not lead to the destabilization of the work of Ostankino television.

Name Ostankino 'Manager'

LD1609195493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The Council of Directors of the Ostankino Russian State Radio and Television Company met today. [passage omitted]

An organizational question was also solved today. Valentin Valentinovich Lazutkin, first deputy chairman of the Ostankino Company, is to perform the functions of manager of the Ostankino Television channel [obyazannosti po rukovodstvu telekanalom Ostankino vozlozhennyye na, Lazutkina]

Recent Developments in 'Independent Television' Viewed

LD1609153293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1505 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—"An agreement on cooperation between the "St. Petersburg Fifth Channel" television and broadcasting company and the Russian Independent Television (ITV) was signed today in the

office of the mayor of St. Petersburg," ITAR-TASS was told by ITV Director-General Igor Malashenko.

In accordance with this agreement, the "Itogi" analytic programme and daily news telecasts will go on the air at 21.00 on the Fifth Channel, beginning from October 10. Yevgeniy Kiselev will be anchorman of the "Itogi" programme, Tatyana Mitkova and Mikhail Osokin—anchormen of the news programme, and Leonid Parfyonov—anchorman of the Saturday "Namedny" programme.

Igor Malashenko recalled that a large group of journalists from the ITA television news agency, backed by three Russian banks, including the "Stolichny" bank, the "Most" (bridge) group, and the "National Credit" bank, have set up the Independent TV news service (ITV) to telecast news and political programmes. "Journalists believe that really professional programmes can be made only on non-state television," he added. "Today, [no closing quotation mark as received] Malashenko said, "ITV journalists are in excellent mood. The main problem of getting access to the air has been resolved," he stated.

However, rumours that this will trigger an exodus of journalists from the news programmes of the Moscow First TV Channel are greatly exaggerated, officials of the "Ostankino" TV Company's press service believe. Only 5 or 6 resignations have been handed in so far by several anchormen of the "Utro" (Morning) programme and by the editor of the International Video Review.

Press Service Director Ilya Kuzmenkov believes that they will be joined by the staff of the "Itogi" programme, led by Yevgeniy kiselev. However, he thinks it is not very probable that many professional journalists will leave the First Channel news programmes, which are most prestigeous on the Russian Television and are watched by 70 per cent of the TV viewers.

First Vice-Chairman of the "Ostankino" Company Kirill Ignatyev met ITA staff members to inform them that the wages of company employees would be raised by 80 per cent as of August 1st. Some leading ITA analysts will be granted personal salaries. Royalties and bonuses will be increased 3-fold or even more. Ignatyev said that the "Ostankino" company planned to allocate one million U.S. dollars to purchase new television equipment and one billion roubles to buy flats for its employees.

Decree Defines Mass Media Inspectorate's Functions

MK1609123993 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 2

[Ivan Sidorov report: "Regulation on State Inspectorate for the Mass Media. The Inspectorate Is Given Specific Functions"]

[Text] The other day, a federal government decree approved the "Regulation on the State Inspectorate of the Press and Information Ministry for the Protection of Freedom of the Press and Mass Information." Yesterday, this document specifying the role and place of this monitoring organization, which was set up by presidential edict in December 1991, was released for distribution. Among other things, the inspectorate was given the right to conduct inspections of the mass media, printing and publishing enterprises, and television and radio companies in order to investigate violations of the Law on the Press and Mass Media.

The two years that elapsed between issuing the presidential edict "On Measures To Protect Freedom of the Press in the RSFSR" (on the basis of which the state inspectorate was actually set up) and approving a regulation on this organization were spent, among other things, on resolving the question of whether it should be an independent organization or part of the Press and Information Ministry.

The regulations stipulate that the state inspectorate will operate as part of the Press and Information Ministry. However, another upcoming government document that is expected to be approved one of these days says that it will be financed from the federal budget.

The regulation on the state inspectorate, which is already operating in almost 30 regions, came amid parliament's attempts to set up the Federal Council for Ensuring Freedom of Speech on State Television and Radio. In effect, both organizations could be viewed as tools by which the representative and executive branches are vying for control over the mass media. However, the inspectorate, unlike the federal council, may not influence television and radio programming policies or appointments to top posts in the mass media. Inspectorate staffers are not allowed to oversee if various political views are represented proportionately by the mass media, either.

Economic Issues

Chubays Reportedly Persuades Yeltsin Against Lobov Plan

PM1609144593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Irina Demchenko article: "The President Thought and Decided That Chubays Is More Correct Than Lobov"—last four paragraphs carried as separate boxed section]

[Text] Last weekend Boris Yeltsin suspended his directive issued 30 August with the aim of completely changing the procedure for the privatization now being carried out in Russia.

The president's 30 August directive approved the proposals of Oleg Lobov, first vice premier of the Russian Government, supported by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, for making the switch from primarily free privatization ("people's" privatization, to use the

favorite expression of the leadership of the Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property]) to the preferential sale of facilities up for privatization to those who have the funds to buy them. Despite the fact that the Lobov-Luzhkov plan contains obvious drawbacks, including political ones, it will probably gain the sympathy of a number of well known economists who opposed free voucher privatization as being economically and psychologically damaging.

I will remind you that this is not the first time that Oleg Lobov has advanced reformist concepts aimed at strengthening state regulation of the economy and changing the substance and form of projects begun by Yegor Gaydar. Last spring there was wide discussion of his idea of bringing a number of other economic and sectoral ministries and departments into the Ministry of the Economy, which he heads, thereby creating, as it were, another mini Council of Ministers for economic questions. Oleg Lobov proposed giving his deputies the same status as vice premiers, evidently intending that he himself should be equated with the prime minister. At the beginning of August this year he put to an enlarged session of the Russian Government a concept which proposed, inter alia, cardinally changing the privatization program. But Viktor Chernomyrdin forbade Lobov to even submit his project for discussion.

All the more dramatic was the emergence at the end of August of B. Yeltsin's directive on indexing the value of privatization checks and revaluing fixed capital, as proposed in Lobov's concept, which was taken up by Yuriy Luzhkov. Here Moscow's mayor was evidently inspired by the success of the operation to issue the president's edict "On Special Features of the Privatization of the 'Moskvich' Association." Under this edict the motor vehicle builders received unprecedented privileges and large budget investments. Until that moment, I will remind you, the president had unconditionally and very firmly supported the privatization scheme drawn up by the Goskomimushchestvo under the leadership of Anatoliy Chubays, and he changed his viewpoint only after a personal discussion with Oleg Lobov.

Commenting at the weekend on the president's withdrawal of his approval, Anatoliy Chubays diplomatically remarked that "after more careful analysis of the proposals of the Ministry of the Economy the president considered that they were not ready to be approved." A reliable source has reported that during the period between 30 August and 11 September the president met with Anatoliy Chubays several times and discussed Lobov's privatization concept with him. The last such meeting took place 11 September, after which the president withdrew his directive approving Lobov's plan. Obviously, Anatoliy Chubays managed to be convincing. In addition, a role was played by the fact that the abolition of "people's privatization" coincided with the start of the election campaign.

Just as at the beginning of August, before the Council of Ministers, it has once again been suggested that Chubays and Lobov meet under the control of Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and coordinate their positions, which are essentially directly opposite.

Oleg Lobov's Privatization Concept

Indexation of the fixed capital of enterprises up for privatization to the tune of 100-150 times;

Indexation of the value of privatization checks (vouchers) to the tune of 25 times;

Reduction of the share of state and municipal property being transferred free of charge in exchange for privatization checks from 80 to 30 percent;

Privatization of approximately 70 percent of state and municipal property for money, which is then to be channeled into investments in these enterprises and in the state budget (as a result of which the state budget deficit would diminish).

'Coalition Government' Produces Poor Economic Results

PM1609103393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Sep 93 p 1

[Andrey Kolesnikov "Journalist's Opinion": "Game Without Rules. Struggle Within Government Between State Socialists and Liberals Is Intensifying"]

[Text] A clumsy personnel policy and constant political turbulence have resulted in our government's definitively turning into a coalition government. As we see, this fundamental quality does not produce positive results. The reason is obvious: It is possible to implement successfully only any one economic policy, not two which differ decisively from each other.

One more point. In addition to personal convictions—socialist, as in the case of the minister of the economy, or liberal, as with the minister of finance—there is official ethics, which prescribes that a government official, even one of the highest rank, adheres to the official line of the Council of Ministers, i.e. plays according to the rules.

It is perfectly obvious that in the economic policy of the executive branch of power the agreement between the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance and the government's official anticrisis program constitute these rules. **Before** this program was adopted and **before** liberal economic guidelines were confirmed in the government's policy, Oleg Lobov had a moral right to write his well known "note" on the need to raise the status of the Ministry of the Economy to the level of the State Planning Committee, a number of Central Committee departments, and several other ministries; to engage in generating paperwork in the form of his own alternative program, which caused such a sensation; and to hamper the dissemination of the official program (although the latter action goes beyond simple human ethics). But the **accepted** rules of play should have been obeyed. Instead of this, a new draft decree on the Ministry of the

Economy, another paper on "stabilization" measures, and a draft presidential edict that reduces to naught all the attempts at financial stabilization and privatization in Russia come into being.

Oleg Lobov's position is exceptionally stable. Like Chubays and Fedorov, his antagonists, he is clean before all sorts of commissions on corruption. The persistence with which the minister of the economy works on drafts of various papers provokes admiration—but what if, the thought steals into some people's minds, there is something in this? Finally, the president himself approved in principle both the "stabilization" measures and the draft edict on privatization. It was only the implacable stand taken by Anatoliy Chubays that deferred the edict's adoption.

Boris Yeltsin's position is bewildering. Once before, let us state frankly, he exposed the cabinet of reformers: Lobov became minister of the economy. By approving the measures proposed by Lobov, he exposed his own election bloc and a quite definite economic course, i.e.—in such a paradoxical way—himself.

The government is at a crossroads. It is not yet clear who is actually in control of the situation. There is one word for the interim results of the struggle between social etatists and liberals—stalemate. But the impasse in government circles could have a pernicious effect on the economy: A violation of the rules of play will inevitably accelerate the rate of inflation.

From the Editors. We have learned from well informed government sources that the statute "On the Ministry of the Economy" will once again be discussed at the end of this week, obviously at a session of the Council of Ministers Presidium under the leadership of Viktor Chernomyrdin. As is well known, it was not adopted last week. Presumably this session will consider a concerted position on the proposals of the Ministry of the Economy, as President B. Yeltsin urged the premier and his two deputies. But for this it is necessary to agree to a compromise. Are all the Presidium members ready for this? Let us not guess—let us wait until Thursday.

Government, Deputies To Discuss Economic Stabilization

LD1609145593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Government will today discuss with Supreme Soviet representatives a program for economic and financial stabilization in Russia.

The situation in the economy is such that extraordinary measures are simply essential. Last week Finance Minister Boris Fedorov even suggested the introduction of an economic state of emergency, and there are grounds for this. In August inflation reached 29 percent in Russia and prices began to go up faster too, having gone up between 25 and 28 percent last month. According to economic experts, prices will have doubled or so by the end of the year. How are we to extricate ourselves from this financial cul-de-sac? It is this issue that the government members and people's deputies will be tackling today.

Abalkin Interviewed on Budget, Economy

PM1609112593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Sep 93 p 3

[Interview with Academician Leonid Abalkin by ITAR-TASS specially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI; place and date not given: "Either a Compromise Will Be Reached in the Economy Or a Dictatorship Will Come About, Academician Leonid Abalkin Believes"]

[Text] [ITAR-TASS] Parliament is insisting on its own version of the state budget with a huge deficit. What do you think about this?

[Abalkin] I can state unequivocally that approval of such a deficit pushes the country toward sharp growth in inflation and the collapse of the financial system with all the ensuing consequences.

But the defenders of this deficit are also right to exactly the same degree. Because these are not farfetched things, and it is not a matter of political games: Large state infusions really are necessary in order to restore production and give it some boost, in order to prevent mass unemployment, which will inevitably follow from a production halt, and in order to support the indigent sections of the population, because one-fifth of Russians today have an average per capita income which is half the living wage.

Where is the way out? It consists in not taking the problem of the Russian budget out of the general economic context, but regarding it as one of the details. There are two sides to the budget: expenditure and revenue. Everyone tries to get out of the situation by reducing expenditure. It really is necessary to cut back—for example, on spending on the swollen managerial apparatus at the center and in the provinces. It is also possible to curtail other classes [of expenditure], including investment ones.

But let us return to the revenue side. If production falls, revenue is reduced—which means that encouraging and supporting production constitutes not just an expense but at the same time also a revenue.

Further, the crisis of nonpayments is once again being exacerbated and, given the toughening of budget and credit policy, will continue to be exacerbated. It is by no means only enterprises which work badly that suffer as a result. Because of nonpayments the budget does not receive value-added tax, since output has not been paid for; the tax on profits, which it has simply been impossible to make; or income tax, since wages have not been

paid. This means, once again, that stabilization of payments constitutes not just expenditure but also increased revenue.

In short, a correction to the very policy of economic reforms is needed. Not in the sense of abandoning them: It is necessary not to go backward but to make a realistic assessment of the situation and take measures of a general stabilization, anticrisis nature. It is within this framework that a more or less sensible budget can be drawn up.

[ITAR-TASS] And yet no way out of the vicious circle is in sight. You, for example, recommend supporting production, but structural restructuring is impossible without inefficient enterprises going bankrupt....

[Abalkin] That is a fundamental question. Our institute's collective of scientists advocates selective support for production. This support must be the product of a certain social accord: We have sat down and reached agreement on what is sacred to us. For example, food, medical supplies, goods for children, housing construction. We have agreed on what we will support (preferential credits, low taxes), and we will squeeze all the rest. Of course, there can be different options here, but the chief thing is to reach agreement.

In general, the structure of the Russian economy is at present becoming not more but less progressive than before. The share of fuel and raw material sectors is growing, while the technical level is falling, since the greatest slump is precisely in the high-tech sphere. For production of modern equipment requires great expenditure, but there is no money, and people endeavor to produce whatever is easier. Conversion is also having an effect, when, instead of night-vision devices, let us say, they are starting to produce saucepans and meat grinders.

[ITAR-TASS] It is also, however, a question of what people need more. I believe Keynes wrote that at the height of a crisis it becomes economically advantageous even to build pyramids. Do you agree with this?

[Abalkin] It was not only Keynes but also the actual practice of President Franklin Roosevelt; a system of public works. It enabled the Americans at the height of the great depression to maintain employment and to make a spurt in the construction of roads and school premises and in civic improvements to cities.

The so-called multiplication effect is also important here: Let us assume I invest money in housing construction and thereby encourage production of construction materials, etc.—right down to the base sectors. The overall effect considerably exceeds the original impetus. The tax base increases correspondingly, and the budget is replenished. Of course, this model can also work under our conditions.

[ITAR-TASS] About employment, incidentally: A developed private sector could absorb surplus manpower, but it is extremely weak in our country and there are insufficient investments and credit resources. Where is the way out?

[Abalkin] The "private sector" is too generalized a concept. I see the way out in the development of small-scale business, particularly in the sphere of goods production and services. In the United States, for example, two-thirds of new jobs are today provided precisely by small-scale business. It does not require big investments: a small cooperative of 10-15 people or an individual dressmaker, a photographic workshop, a shoemaker's, a laundry.... There is no end of vacant premises in cities—basements and even apartments—which can be equipped as workshops.

Only a certain system of support is needed. Credits can be provided directly by local organs of power, which can arrange them through local banks and act as guarantors with regard to the banks. At the same time the power can also pay the interest on credits in full or partially. Yes, of course, you end up with a variety of subsidy, but this is done all over the world.

[ITAR-TASS] Credits are a problem given the present level of inflation. Will inflation increase?

[Abalkin] It has not stopped: Since the beginning of the year it has been running at the level of 20-24 percent a month. According to our estimates, this level will be maintained for the time being. Despite the restrictive credit and financial policy, there are no signs of an improvement. This is natural, for purely market methods of combatting inflation do not apply to an economy which is not yet a market economy. They simply cannot work, given our degree of production monopolization, the price diktat, the dependent position of consumers, and the compact among suppliers.

[ITAR-TASS] Addressing the All-Russia Economic Conference at the end of July, you said that either accord will be reached in economic policy or a totalitarian regime will soon come about. Has anything changed since then?

[Abalkin] What could have changed? The very conference was prepared on the basis of a joint declaration by representatives of two branches of power, but only one of the branches participated. The conference adopted a resolution, but a few days later the government put forward its own program....

We can now return to drawing up a well-balanced compromise program that will be supported by the government, the trade unions, organs of representative power, public movements, and the main sociopolitical forces. So as to act together and not put spokes in each other's wheels. When this does not happen, and crisis phenomena grow.... world practice suggests just two options: either accord or dictatorship.

An example is provided by the great depression of 1929-1933. The U.S. way out of the situation, and the German one. The former was based on a compromise

between the government, parliament, entrepreneurs, bankers.... It was hard to achieve this. Roosevelt was called a "red"—all kinds of things—but they extricated themselves. In the second case, note, there was not a coup d'etat either. Everything was done, as we say today, on a legitimate basis....

Our chances of social accord are diminishing. The likelihood of the second option, linked with the establishment of totalitarian government, is increasing. But chances of accord still exist.

Rise in Fuel Prices Reported

PM1609114193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Energy Prices Will Increase Further"]

[Text] The rise in the price of gasoline that took place in Moscow on 10 September and in many regions of Russia in the first 10 days of the month was the direct result of the rising price of energy raw materials, a trend that was established in August.

During August the prices set by enterprises producing the main types of energy resources increased in Russia by 41 percent on average, including energy raw materials (coal, oil, natural gas) by 68 percent (by 22 percent in July), petroleum products by 6 percent (by 70 percent in July). The accelerated rise in energy raw material prices in August created prerequisites for a further increase in petroleum-processing industry product prices.

The wholesale rate for electricity increased by 66 percent during the month.

In the first six months of the year average coal prices remained practically unchanged, whereas in the first two months after liberalization the price of coal increased 10.5 times. But the rise in coal prices slowed down dramatically in the last two weeks of August (to approximately three percent per week).

Despite the fact that the government decree raising regulated gas prices was adopted in July, the rise did not actually occur until a month later. In one week, 16-23 August, gas prices increased by 76 percent (77 percent in August as a whole).

The price of crude oil rose by 52.7 percent in August, the surge having occurred in the latter half of the month. In August the biggest increase in oil prices was at oilfields in the Republic of Dagestan (97.6 percent), Tyumen Oblast (66.6 percent), and Udmurt Republic (57.7 percent). Given an average sector oil price in Russia of 23,400 rubles [R] per tonne, producer enterprises in Sakhalin Oblast were supplying it at the end of August at R55,000; in the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk Oblast it was R31,000; in Saratov Oblast it was R29,000, and in Volgograd, Samara, Tomsk, and Tyumen Oblasts it was between R25,000 and R26,000

For the first time in the past five months August saw retail prices of gasoline rise more quickly than producer enterprises' average prices. The average retail price of gasoline in Russia in August was R119 per liter, which is 80 percent higher than the producer enterprises' average price (R66). But prices differed substantially from region to region.

AES Accidents, Underproduction Viewed

MK1609110493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Nersesyan, head of the Center for Public Information on Nuclear Energy, under "Energy" rubric: "Cheap Energy is Not Needed? Russian Nuclear Power Plants in August"]

[Text] All in all, in August 1993, 12 accidents were registered in all the nuclear power stations [AES] in Russia, only two of which ranked 1 on the international scale of events at nuclear power stations, while the others were below this level. One of the level 1 events occurred at the first block of the Smolensk AES on 3 August. As a result of a short in an electrical motor, one of the pumps went out of action.

In accordance with standing procedures, the block was downloaded to 50 percent of its nominal output while the burnt electrical motor was replaced.

The other event referred to as a level 1 happened at the third power unit at the Balakovskaya AES on 14 August. Defects occurred in the protection control regulation system.

Underproduction of electrical energy by the AES in August was 2.175 million kwh, or 27.5 percent of the total output. Maximum losses were registered at the Kolskaya and the Balakovskaya AES, mainly because of centralized control service limitations [dispetcherskiye ogranicheniya]. Minimal losses occurred at the Beloyarskaya and Novovoronezhskaya AES.

Recently, the reasons for underproduction of electrical energy by nuclear power stations have changed radically. Whereas in the past they were related to emergency shutdowns of power generating units or other technical reasons, in August the main reason for the losses at virtually all energy blocks was control service limitations of AES generating capacity.

This means that the centralized control service of the Russian energy system refuses to accept...cheap electrical energy from the AES. The power supply situation in Russia is becoming very serious. In the entire world AES operate at basic workloads, i.e., generating as much electricity as they are capable of producing, irrespective of daily fluctuations in the consumption level.

The choice of electricity sources to supply Russia's integrated power grid is entirely ensured by the control service. The power grid in Russia at present has been

reorganized as a joint-stock society. This society is overseen by the Russian Federation Fuel and Energy Ministry and is therefore interested in loading thermal power stations. This paradox leads to economic losses on a nationwide scale, although it does "salvage" the enterprises under the jurisdiction of the joint-stock society and regional energy systems. This results in the overspending of fossil fuel (oil, natural gas, and gas) used to produce electricity. It also affects consumers' interests. Electricity generated by thermal power stations is more expensive than that produced by an AES. The delivery of electricity to the grid further raises the price of electricity. The imperfection of such a system of economic relations between the joint-stock society, the regional energy systems, the Russian Federation Fuel and Energy Ministry, and the Rosenergoatom concern is obvious. So far, however, there are no clear cut or speedy ways of addressing this problem.

Official Reports Inflation Data

PM1609142593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Svetlana Ulanova, staffer of the Russian Government Center for Economic Conditions: "Beginning of September: New Inflation Surge"]

[Text] Inflation in the first week of September was 6.3 percent (at the end of August it was 3.3 percent per week). This year inflation has shown a marked tendency to surge at the beginning of every month.

Prices rose particulary sharply in the first week of September in the consumer services sphere—by 7.5 percent.

Inflation varied from region to region in Russia at the beginning of September: For example, in the cities of east Siberia and the Far East retail prices leapt by 8-8.7 percent during the week. In the Northwest, Volga-Vyatka, and Central Chernozem regions the increase did not exceed 3-4 percent. In Moscow and St.Petersburg inflation was lower than the average Russian level—4.9-4.6 percent. Food prices increased by 6.1 percent on average last week. There were particularly large increases in the prices of bakery products (16 percent) and flour (11 percent) at the beginning of September. Prices of dairy products, sugar, groats, and pasta increased by 6-7 percent. The price of vodka rose by 12 percent on average and tobacco products by 7 percent in the period 31 August through 7 September.

In Tatarstan and Ulyanovsk Oblast, where food prices are traditionally low, prices soared by 25 and 22 percent respectively. Moreover, foodstuffs whose prices are still being regulated by the local administration saw the biggest rises. For example, the price of sugar increased by 42 percent in Tatarstan and nearly doubled in Ulyanovsk Oblast; the prices of bakery products increased by 33 and 79 percent, the prices of meat products by 38 and 19 percent, and the price of butter by 30 and 45 percent respectively. The biggest rise in food prices in Russia was in Orel Oblast—52 percent on average for the week.

In the first week of September consumer demand in Russia fell by 2 percent. Most affected was the sale of dairy products, confectionery, edible fats, and canned goods (down by 6-9 percent). The demand for vodka fell by 8.5 percent.

The cost of the basket of 19 major foodstuffs was 19,400 rubles [R] on 7 September. That is 5.7 percent more than on 31 August. In Moscow the basket of 19 items cost R23,100 on 7 September, an increase of 6.5 percent; in St. Petersburg it cost R20,800, an increase of 1.7 percent. Moscow is 28th in the list of the most expensive cities in Russia (as it was the previous week) and St. Petersburg has moved from 36th to 40th place (out of 132 cities).

Grain Harvest, Purchases Evaluated

PM1709085593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Valeriy Konovalov report: "Half the Harvest Gathered But Grain Prices Not Sorted Out"]

[Text] According to data of the Russian State Committee for Statistics, grain crops have been threshed on half the sown areas and cut on 60 percent. With the onset of cold weather the pace of harvesting and the yield per hectare fall. The latter, incidentally, is still higher than last year and stands at 22.8 quintals per hectare.

In all, just over 60 million tonnes of grain have been threshed. It is already clear that the record harvest result promised by Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha [responsible for agrarian sector] will not be achieved. We will most likely secure a harvest at last year's level.

Grain purchases into the federal fund and the regional fund are proceeding quite actively, and already more than 14 million tonnes of grain, in all, have entered the state resources—more than by this time last year. At the same time peasants are trading virtually only with the state. Commodity exchange trade cannot reach the price level of state purchases today. A little more, and there will be no difference between buying grain abroad or from Russian grain growers.

This "little more" could come about in the very near future. In accordance with a government decree, grain purchase prices must be indexed every month by an average of 10 percent—which has been done up until now. But if such indexation is carried out also in October, then prices will practically reach the level of world prices.

Therefore a report in the newspaper ROSSIYSKIY FERMER [RUSSIAN FARMER] that the question of abolishing indexation of grain purchase prices in October is being discussed appears perfectly convincing. The opposing sides are obvious: [Deputy Chairman of

the Council of Ministers and Minister of Finance] B. Fedorov and Zaveryukha, who is actively supported by [First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers] O. Lobov. For grain purchases for state resources "Roskhleboprodukt," which deals with them, needs more than 5 trillion rubles. This is an excessive burden on the budget and the entire financial system.

It is, of course, possible to abolish indexation. But this will not solve the whole problem. It is hardly possible to reduce purchase prices in connection with the large supply from grain suppliers and the lack of competition in demand. There is a proposal to deprive "Roskhleboprodukt" of all state financial support—let it get credits from commercial banks, it is said. There are also other options, not one of which gains an advantage under conditions of the fierce struggle within the government.

Increased Economic Crime Figures Reported

PM1609120193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA-ITAR-TASS column: "Economy in Danger"]

[Text] The results of the work of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] subunits for economic crime over the first eight months of the year have been summed up.

It is not a comforting picture. A total of 76,043 crimes were committed in the economic sphere. There were 3,226 cases of bribery, which is 33.7 percent up on the same period last year. Of the more than 27,000 recorded cases of embezzlement by officials, more than 5,500 were on a large or very large scale. Fifty percent more violations of foreign currency operations were uncovered. Particularly worrying is the snowballing growth in recorded cases of counterfeiting. They were up almost 18-fold on last year.

Supreme Soviet

Rutskoy Addresses Supreme Soviet, Warns of Dictatorship

LD1709093693

[Editorial Report] Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 0730 GMT on 17 September broadcasts a report from the "Novaya Volna" program on today's Supreme Soviet proceedings by correspondent Olga Vasilenko.

After mentioning the earlier proceedings, she says: "Rutskoy made his speech, which—and I quote—was devoted to an in-depth assessment of the political and economic situation in the country."

In answer to a question by the program announcer on what assessment Rutskoy gave, Vasilenko replies: "Well, in spite of the illegal decree of the president, I remain vice president, Rutskoy said, and I fulfil my constitutional duty. Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy sees his constitutional duty as being to warn all the citizens of Russia that the Kremlin authorities have everything ready to introduce a so-called presidential rule, or to put it more simply, dictatorship. The aim of this is to disperse the soviets and to destroy the system of people's power.

"The vice president spoke about the difficult position in the Army," she continues, "although, he asserted, there are particular personal units of the Russian Army that are being kept to fulfil special decrees by the president.

"Well, Aleksandr Vladimirovich's speech was crammed with such very colorful descriptions as, for example, the abyss of the wild market, the president and his political guides, the onset of presidential dictatorship, and others."

Vasilenko then goes on to describe the rest of the proceedings.

Khasbulatov Congratulates Rutskoy on Birthday

PM1609194193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 1

["Own information" report incorporating comments by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy following birthday greetings from Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov: "Some People Might Wish the Vice President Had Never Been Born"]

[Text] It was Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's birthday yesterday. Previously there would have been no stopping the congratulations. But it is during hard times that true attitudes are revealed. One of the first to send congratulations to Aleksandr Vladimirovich was Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov. The message says, in particular:

"Your courageous conduct in a situation of blatant persecution and slander once again emphasizes your qualities as a real leader and courageous man you acquired when serving the fatherland and your sense of civic responsibility for the future of our motherland.

"I wish you a robust health and spirits, and wisdom in the name of the prosperity of our country and our peoples."

PRAVDA staffers join in these congratulations.

[PRAVDA] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, what feelings are you experiencing on your birthday?

[Rutskoy] I am truly grateful for the congratulations. I was born at the crossroads of war and peace. My father, a tank officer who was in the war from start to finish, brought me and my brothers up in such a way that respect for military labor and achievements became a solid moral reference point for me. As a Russian politician and officer I have always done and will always do all I can to help war veterans, to make people remain proud of the victory, and to prevent Russia from living like a country that has suffered a total defeat.

That is what I am thinking about on my birthday. As for me personally, like any normal person I would, of course, like to see greater results from my actions, because I devote all the strength and knowledge that I possess in the name of and for the good of our people, our Russia.

Khasbulatov Proposes Forming Union of Fatherland

LD1709083693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov addressed the session of the Supreme Soviet with a memorandum in which he called upon all the national parliaments of the former Soviet Union to examine the idea of setting up a Union of Fatherland. In Khasbulatov's view, it should be built on the basis of the existing Interparliamentary Assembly. The head of the Russian Supreme Soviet said that the ideas he had put forward could be examined as early as 25 September at a routine meeting of the Interparliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg.

Calls For CIS Union

LD1709102193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 17 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, tabled a memorandum in the Russian Parliament today, moving to set up a CIS political, economic, social and defence union. He said that this was prompted by present-day "grim realities and common sense".

The memorandum says that the first step in this direction should be the establishment of an economic union, which was already supported by several CIS states. "But this is not enough today," Khasbulatov said. In his opinion, the list of initial integrational measures should include without fail such tasks as coordination of efforts in the political, defence and social spheres in order to "protect the citizens of the CIS countries, to make them confident in their future".

The Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS states is the most suitable venue for discussing and resolving problems arising from the present life of the Commonwealth. "To make the assembly legitimate in this respect, it is expedient to hold direct elections to it and to form in this way a parliament of the CIS union," the speaker said, noting that "such a parliament would form corresponding executive structures in order to coordinate the functions of an inter-state nature indicated in the memorandum". Khasbulatov believes it is possible to "draw up a sort of constitutional act, delineating the powers of supra-national and national-state bodies of power and administration in such a union or Commonwealth".

These problems, the speaker said, could be discussed and roadmarks for their solution could be fixed by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly "if the national parliaments and executive authorities of the CIS states were to vest their delegations with corresponding powers, and the parliaments themselves could adopt the necessary decisions". Khasbulatov moved that "the parliaments should examine and discuss these proposals so that we could discuss the whole package of problems already on September 25, at a meeting of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. He does not rule out a special meeting of the assembly, devoted to the formation of such a union".

"In any case," the memorandum stresses, "this must be a union of homelands, a union of free states, in which they will voluntarily delegate separate state functions to a single common supra-national body in order to regulate and coordinate the most important spheres in keeping with the foregoing constitutional act". Khasbulatov said this was the crux of the proposed approach, which "will not give opponents of closer integration a chance to advance slogans condemning alleged new imperial designs".

Parliament Urged To Adopt Bill Limiting Draft Deferrals

MK1609090093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 2

[Nikolay Badayev report under the "Army" rubric: "Russian Federation Supreme Soviet To Consider Amending Military Service Law. If the Amendment Is Passed, Post-Graduate Students, Specialized Technical and Vocational Training School Students Will No Longer Be Entitled to Military Service Deferral"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Defense and Security Committee considered and approved a number of bills at its latest meeting, including the draft law "On Making Amendments to Article 21 of the Russian Federation Law on Military Service," regarding the need to repeal the right to defer the military service draft that is currently enjoyed by citizens studying at institutions of primary professional education (vocational training schools and special trade schools), secondary professional education (specialized technical schools), and post-graduate professional education (post-graduate and doctoral courses). Thus, only full-time undergraduate students from institutions of higher learning will still be entitled to a draft deferral. The bill is to go into force on 1 October 1993.

Colonel General Vitaliy Bologov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, who attended the committee meeting, explained that this proposal was made because of the catastrophic situation in manning the Russian Federation Armed Forces and other military units to full strength. For instance, in the autumn of 1993, two draft calls of over half a million soldiers and sailors will retire from military service. If the bill is enacted, General Staff specialists reckon that another 400,000 people or so could be called up for service. This would increase the Armed Forces' strength level by between 10 and 15 percent.

The meeting decided to submit the bill to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet for consideration on 17 September and to recommend that the Supreme Soviet approve the government proposal as a temporary measure for the next one and a half years.

POSTFACTUM reported that the meeting considered other enforceable acts, including the draft law "On the Russian Federation Border Troops."

Zlobin Denies Personnel Changes Suggest Policy Change

PM1609124393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[RIA report: "No Hidden Agenda. Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman's Press Secretary Explains"]

[Text] Answering correspondents' questions 13 September, Konstantin Zlobin, press secretary to the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, gave explanations in connection with the claims voiced the previous day in the "Itogi" TV program. Yevgeniy Kiselev, the program's presenter, gave the impression that there had recently been certain fundamental personnel changes in the parliament's apparatus, hinting at the possibility of some fundamental changes in the policy of the Supreme Soviet leadership. In this connection the broadcast mentioned Ivan Boyko, Konstantin Bulanov, Konstantin Lubenchenko, and Gennadiy Peresadchenko.

The press secretary explained that Boyko, chief of the Russian Federation Administration for the Protection of Buildings Housing Top Organs of State Power and Administration, had been seconded to the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] this June because of the reorganization of the administration. Bulanov, chief of the Supreme Soviet's Leadership Security Department, was discharged for health reasons in March 1993. As for Lubenchenko, who headed the Parliamentary Center, he was relieved of his duties 30 August at his own request. Peresadchenko, chief of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman's Secretariat, is on leave through 21 September.

"That is why, to my mind, it is entirely unjustifiable to say that these personnel changes within the parliamentary apparatus have happened recently or reflect any hidden agenda on the part of the leadership," Zlobin concluded.

Regional Affairs

Sobchak's Recent Car Crashes Questioned

MK1709091593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 14

[Anton Antonov-Ovseyenko, Jr., report: "St. Petersburg Mayor Had a Car Accident. Anatoliy Sobchak Does Not Rule Out the Possibility of an Attempt on His Life"]

[Text] Yesterday, KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported on a car accident that occurred the night of 14 September involving the St. Petersburg mayor when he was on his way to Sheremetyevo airport. Anatoliy Sobchak's press service distributed a press release on the subject on 16 September. Experts surmise that the accident was preplanned and was aimed against a potential Russian president.

In the announcement on the 14 September accident involving the St. Petersburg mayor's car, Mr. Sobchak did not rule out the theory of a planned attempt on his life, leaving "the final say to investigating agencies." KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondents learned that on Sunday, 11 September, Mr. Sobchak's personal driver, Valentin Makarov, died in a car crash on his way to the mayor's summer house. Furthermore, according to unofficial reports, a "Volga" car driven earlier by Mr. Makarov with the mayor sitting in it met with an accident at the same spot.

Experts put forward a number of theories in connection with the accident. According to one of them, the attempt on Anatoliy Sobchak's life could have been made in response to his address on city television in which he criticized the Russian parliament for failing to adopt the law on non-ferrous metal exports. According to another theory, Mr. Sobchak could have been attacked by enemies of Viktor Kharchenko, chief of the Baltic Sea Steamship Line, who is presently under investigation. Anatoliy Sobchak lent his support to Mr. Kharchenko once again during that same television address. The theory that the attempted assassination could have been organized by people from the entourage of other possible presidential candidates was not ruled out, either.

Impact of Tatarstan Decisions on Draft Described

PM1709083993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 1

[Captain Vladimir Mokhov article: "One Army But Different Colors: Leadership of Tatarstan Creating Advantageous Conditions for Its Young People"]

[Text] Volga Military District—Until recently around 15,000 men left autonomous socialist Tataria per draft to serve in the Soviet Army. In spring this year just 1,530 young men from Tatarstan took the colors of the Russian Army. Despite the contrast in these figures, do not be fooled by them: The plan for the draft in the republic was 100 percent fulfilled.

It is not just that the Russian parliament has adopted a number of deferrals for draftees. The Tatar parliamentarians are not lagging behind their counterparts in this regard: They have deferred till fall the "republic-wide" draft of young people employed in field work and harvesting.

In addition, back in 1991 a session of the Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet broached the question that young men from Tatarstan should not serve in military construction units. Except for those with a criminal record. The deputies approved that decision.

Last year the Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet prepared a document regulating the draft procedure in the republic. The document says that draftees from Tatarstan will serve in all regions of the Russian Federation but...first and foremost on the territory of the Volga Military District and where possible in their native republic.

However, there are virtually no large units on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan, and it is simply impossible to leave all draftees inside the republic. Consequently, according to assurances from the Tatarstan Republic Military Commissariat, those draftees will serve in all branches and categories of forces. But in order to send a draftee to a "trouble spot"—and especially to another state in the CIS—it is necessary to have the written consent of the draftee and his parents.

As a result not a single draftee from Tatarstan has been sent to a "trouble spot" this year, nor even to a subunit of the Russian army stationed in the former Union republics.

This fact may be interpreted in different ways. But irrespective of that, life shows that the solution of the problems of military organizational development today is once more being made directly dependent on the

legislative activity of national-territorial formations. The only question is: Will this benefit the country's defense capability?

Shakhray Opposes Siberian Separatism

PM1609115593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Aleksey Tarasov report: "Sergey Shakhray: 'It Is Necessary To Defend Ourselves Against a Bad Center by Replacing It'"]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk—Russian Federation Vice Premier S. Shakhray visited Krasnoyarsk during his tour of Siberia. According to Shakhray, this visit was connected with Krasnoyarsk Kray's key role in regional politics.

The Siberian krays and oblasts are fighting tooth and nail for the same rights as the federation components and do not in any circumstances intend to give it up. It is, however, the vice premier's opinion that an asymmetric federative system should be preserved for an interim period. "For me," he said, "equal rights for the federation's components does not mean they should be identical." Moreover, S. Shakhray considers that it is simply impossible to get the republics, krays, and oblasts to agree upon principles for a national state system for the Russian Federation at the present stage. The only solution is to put these problems off until better days. Otherwise you will get a new redistribution of power and authority which Russia will not withstand. It is necessary to remove sections on Russia's national state system from existing drafts of the Constitution and leave everything as it is in the current Constitution and the Federation Treaty. And thus only talk about a "Minor Constitution."

Kray Governor V. Zubov stated that it will not be the economically weak territories which cause Russia to collapse but the powerful regions, which are leaders according to their volumes of industrial production and which the central organs of power are presently pushing toward separatism. As we know, it was the Siberians who spontaneously initiated the process of raising the krays' and oblasts' statuses. But today an epidemic of budgetary blackmail is spreading—the territories are ending the transfer of a portion of their taxes to the federal budget. Shakhray described these actions as political Siamese twins and pointed out that people should, however, remember their history better; "it was actually the same motivation as we have today which guided the Russian corps of deputies—and I, unfortunately, was among them—when they made the decision that it was time to stop feeding the Transcaucasian region and Central Asia, and that it was necessary to leave as much money in the budget as Russia needed, and only to transfer to the Union budget money which we did not need." It is well known resulted from this. Shakhray emphasized: "The same logic will be behind development here, whatever motivation is given to explain it. Therefore, it is necessary to defend oneself against a bad center not through slogans about proclaiming a republic or through a budget war. It is necessary to defend oneself against a bad center in a unitary state by replacing it."

Yakut President Wants Immediate Power-Sharing Law

MK1609122493 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 53, 16 Sep 93 (signed to press 15 Sep) p 2

[Unattributed report in "Provincial Chronicle" column under "Yakutsk" rubric]

[Text] Yakutia President Mikhail Nikolayev insists that the constitutional process in Russia be suspended until the power system in the Russian Federation has been defined, considering it necessary to pass a law on power delineating the framework of power for both branches of government. This draft law should first of all be approved by the Federation Council (which in the future, according to the president, could become a prototype for one of the chambers in a legislative body) so that the deputies can do business "not with the president or the executive branch but in a certain sense with the whole of Russia," since such a law, the president of Yakutia is convinced, will not make it through the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. It is within the Federation Council that the president and the Supreme Soviet chairman should work out the foundations for creating a federation and do that with the participation of the territories, Yakutia's president stressed. Furthermore, he believes it is necessary to change the principles of forming the structure of government, which should be based not only on political but also economic and territorial interests.

Yakutia's President Backs Federation Council

LD1709101393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 17 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—President of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Mikhail Nikolayev said he backed the "convocation and organised holding" of the first meeting of the Council of the Federation on September 18 under the chairmanship of the Russian president. "There are weighty reasons for this," he told ITAR-TASS.

The Council's formation is "quite a difficult and delicate problem, which has triggered contradictory discussions", Nikolayev stated. "It is now typical for Russia that any proposal immediately gives rise to opposition," he added. Hence, in his opinion, the constitutional process which is proceeding "dramatically, so to speak, should be held back a little in order to consolidate our society". Today we must draw up a concept that would tend to rally us together, "and this can be done only by the heads of territories and subjects of the federation who had

signed the federal treaty, thereby laying a solid foundation for Russia's federal arrangement", Nikolayev stressed. In his opinion, the Federation Council idea is in line with such a concept.

Nikolayev drew attention to one more important aspect of the meeting of subjects of the federation. "It is unseemly that two leaders of state power refuse to sit down at one table to carry on a dialogue for the sake of Russia," he noted. And if the subjects of the federation do not take proper measures, "this state of affairs may continue for a long time", the Yakutian president believes. A meeting of the Council of the Federation, whose members include the Russian president, the parliament speaker, and the premier, "is a good chance to sit down at one table".

Nikolayev said that "attacks were launched by the opposition from two sides on the idea of the Federation Council after the heads of the republics announced it in Petrozavodsk. Some people in the president's team fear lest the Council should compel the president to act in accordance with the will of the heads of the subjects of the federation, while the Supreme Soviet fears that the council's decisions may be adopted independently, without it. "These fears are groundless", Nikolayev stressed.

He expressed his profound conviction that "men, heading the republics, territories and regions, who bear the main brunt of the political and economic chaos before the eyes of their populations, will be able to prevent the Russian federation's collapse".

Ingush President Optimistic Over Security Council

MK1709071893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 3

[Interview with Ingush President Ruslan Aushev by Natalya Pachegina under "Ingush Republic" rubric; in Moscow, date not given: "Ruslan Aushev: 'We Should Live Thinking About the Future.' For the Time Being, the Ingush President Studies the Political Situation"—first graf is introduction]

[Text] As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reported earlier, the latest Congress of Ingushetia Peoples tasked its president to formulate the question for the upcoming referendum which, in the opinion of people's deputies, should determine the republic's relations with Moscow which are not easy, to put it mildly. President of the Ingush Republic Ruslan Aushev, who arrived in Moscow for a session of the Russian Federation Security Council, responded to questions from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

[Pachegina] For you, the task of formulating the question for the upcoming referendum presumably means not so much the need to show diplomatic finesse as to signal that other methods of "influence" have been exhausted?

[Aushev] This is precisely the problem. First of all, I would not like anyone here in Moscow to regard the decision by the Congress of Ingushetia Peoples on the question of interrelations with Russia as political blackmail. No one can accuse me, as the republic's president and as a son of my people, of inaction or indecisiveness. Meetings with various officials, talks, admonishments—I have gone through all of that. But it is not myself that really matters. The tragedy of the past year and tens of thousands of people beginning a second winter without shelter, without a job—I mean the refugees—is a terrible period in the history of my people. As a person vested with the trust of this people, I am convinced that we must think about the future and work for it. Do you know what my greatest anguish is today? The proud Ingush people (when leaving home, our ancestor would leave his hat, and for his neighbors that meant that no one could dare trespass on his land) is today placed on its knees. How long, tell me, can it stand like that? (The president's piercing blue eyes flare up.—N. P.). In any case, in the present situation we are doomed to die, and so, is it better to die kneeling? In my opinion, it is better to do that standing straight. This at least corresponds to our national character.

As for the question for the referendum, I should like your paper, which I trust, to write the following: I have been entrusted to determine the date for the referendum as well as its formulation. Therefore, aware of the responsibility before my people, I shall do everything to avoid sharp, dangerous and, finally, irreparable moves.

[Pachegina] Consequently, your presence here at the Russian Federation Security Council is one of these attempts?

[Aushev] It certainly is. It seems that I—knock on wood—can give myself credit for restraint. At the Security Council session from which I have just returned, it finally seemed to me that I am not the only one who is fighting for my people. If people do not exactly share my views, then at least I have people wishing us well.

[Pachegina] Can you be frank?

[Aushev] I shall not say everything just now.... However, I noted that Viktor Stepanovich (Chernomyrdin—N. P.) called things directly by their proper names: The reason that the problem of the Ingush people remains unresolved is in Vladikavkaz. The local leadership, the Russian premier said, is obstructing any efforts to resolve the outstanding questions. And Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin—N. P.), addressing the leadership of North Ossetia—do you know what he said? How can you say that the Ossetian people are the most peaceful people in the Northern Caucasus while you yourselves are.... That is all—I shall not say any more now. Yes, and something else: I paid special attention to the words of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who said for all to hear that Aushev is apparently practically the only leader whose hands are not smeared in blood. I shall only say that within the next few days an edict from the Russian president is to come out on additional measures in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone. I very much hope that the mood of the Russian leadership which I noted at the

latest session of the Security Council, the position of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office, and Yeltsin's upcoming edict will provide hope. At this point you can write: "Aushev is studying the political situation." This will be the utmost truth. I do not want to have on my conscience any ill-advised moves that may harm my people.

[Pachegina] So, you are drumming up support and continuing to fight.... But in the eventuality that the outcome of your work should be unfavorable for the republic, presumably you are also considering other options? Ingushetia as part of a Vaynakh state—it seems that this option has already been mentioned?

[Aushev] Indeed, in spite of the deplorable state of its economy, Ingushetia nonetheless has a right to make a choice. A single Vaynakh state in conjunction with Chechnya is not the only possibility.... My meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze, for instance, has encouraged me greatly; this is very reassuring....

[Pachegina] What exactly do you mean?

[Aushev] Let us not talk about it just now.

Shakhray Cited on Discussion of Ingush-Ossetian Conflict

PM1709083193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Russian Federation Security Council Makes Political Assessment of Ossetian-Ingush Conflict"]

[Text] A routine session of the Russian Federation Security Council was held on the morning of 15 September under the chairmanship of President Boris Yeltsin. This time it was devoted to an analysis of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. Security Council Secretary Ye. Shaposhnikov (to all appearances, the president has not accepted his resignation) and A. Galazov and R. Aushev, the leaders of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, participated in the session in addition to the Council members.

The president gave the floor to S. Shakhray [deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy] to make the first report, after which the debate continued for two hours behind closed doors.

At the request of IZVESTIYA's correspondent, Shakhray reported the following: The crux of his report is that it is intolerable for the federal authorities to continue to remain silent in light of the ongoing Ossetian-Ingush conflict and the earlier dramatic events in that region. Since the investigation is not over, it is premature to speak of a legal assessment of what happened. But it was proposed, as an initial reaction, to make a political assessment of the situation—i.e., to point to the causes of the conflict and to the political forces involved in it.

As a result of the discussion, a package of measures was proposed to normalize the situation in that region, and they will be set forth in a corresponding presidential edict.

International Affairs

Supreme Council Refutes Claims of Anti-Russia Policies

LD1609124993 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 0547 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent; punctuation as received]

[Text] Kiev, 16 Sep—The Ukrainian Supreme Council press center today informed the mass media that it issued a denial which, in particular, reads as follows:

As has become known to us, the Russian 'POSTFAKTUM' agency has circulated among the mass media a report, marked 'urgent', sensationally entitled as 'Russian Deputy Reveals Secret Protocol by Ukrainian Wise Men'. It is about a certain Russian Federation people's deputy, a member of the 'Otchizna' faction, who has returned from the Dniester Republic and Ukraine, and "kindly provided 'POSTFAKTUM' with a document" that says that a closed session was allegedly held by the 'Ukrainian Council of National Salvation's Defense and Security' faction [name as received] in Kiev on 8 September. The text of this document, in particular, reads as follows: "The session was chaired by Mr. Durdynets. Present were: Leonid Kravchuk [Ukrainian president], Ivan Plyushch [speaker of Supreme Council], Vasyl Durdynets [first deputy speaker], Leonid Kuchma [prime minister], Vyacheslav Chornovil [People's Movement chairman], Anatoliy] Zlenko [foreign affairs minister], Ivan Zayets, Volodymyr Yavorivskyy, Ivan Drach [latter three People's Movement activists], Kostyantyn Morozov [defense minister], Yevhen Marchuk [security service chief], Andriy Vasylyshyn [interior minister], National Guard Commander Pidhaynyy, and UNA-UNSO [Ukrainian National Assembly - Ukrainian National Self-Defense] commanders." The session allegedly considered the issue "of Ukraine's practical steps to block Russian influence in the Black Sea region."

We shall quote the so-called 'document' no more. We would only like to say that its text is a complete concoction and a grossly fabricated lie from the top line to the bottom. The above faction and National Salvation Council do not exist in Ukraine at all, while the list of those present can only cause surprise, or make someone in the know smile. So there was and could be no such session. In fact, Vasyl Durdynets, deputy Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman, incidentally, who allegedly chaired the session, was on that day on leave outside Kiev. It is V. O. Kukharets who is the national guard commander, rather than Pidhaynyy. The former was not in Kiev on 8 September either.

Therefore, the 'POSTFAKTUM' agency published a disgraceful falsification with its aim being clearly provocational. In this difficult time, someone very much wants relations between Ukraine and Russia to exacerbate, hence resorting to slander and deliberate lies.

Kiev Conditions Participation in Economic Union

MK1609124693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 4

[Viktoriya Kulakova report: "Ukraine on CIS Economic Union. Prime Minister Secludes Himself in Forest With Economists"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma discussed Ukraine's approach to a CIS economic union with prominent Russian and Ukrainian economists. The closed-door meeting was held outside Kiev in Pushcha Zaozernaya [Lake Forest]. The idea of joining such a union draws diverse reactions in Ukraine—some categorically reject it; others see it as the only way to rescue the Ukrainian economy, which is currently in shambles. [passage omitted]

Apparently, [President Leonid] Kravchuk will be unable to avoid signing a treaty on setting up the union. But according to Aleksandr Chalyy, chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's treaty and legal administration, Ukraine will insist on signing a follow-up agreement setting forth a mechanism for the implementation of the proposed treaty. The main principles of this agreement should be as follows: "one country—one vote" and decision making by consensus. However, the question whether Russia will this time again agree "to indulge Ukraine's special stance" (as Nursultan Nazarbayev put it) remains open. And the union may well come about without Ukraine.

Leonid Kuchma—one of the most ardent proponents of Ukraine's participation in the economic union—is evidently aware of this. Although President Kravchuk accepted his resignation yesterday, and now the parliament will decide his fate, Kuchma does not seem inclined to wind up his career. This was confirmed by his conference with a large group of economists, including Russian specialists such as Leonid Abalkin, Nikolay Petrakov, and Stanislav Shatalin.

'Traitor' Kravchuk, 'Agent' Kuchma Assailed

PM1509143193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 93 p 3

[Vladimir Bogdanovskiy report under "Reports and Commentaries" rubric: "Kravchuk—'Traitor,' Kuchma—'Kremlin Agent.' This Is How the Results of the Massandra Meeting Have Been Perceived in Lvov"]

[Text] Lvov is covered in leaflets again. At rallies cries of "shame" ring out and people are urged to take resolute action to "form people's subunits and prepare for armed struggle for the independence of Ukraine."

The results of the talks between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents on the Black Sea Fleet and nuclear weapons in Ukraine are the cause of this belligerent mood among the Ukrainian ultrapatriots.

The documents on the fleet have not, as people will know, been signed. There have been no findings by the commission of experts as yet. Nevertheless the leaders of various political parties are stating that Leonid Kravchuk has betrayed the interests of the Ukrainian state. Serious charges are also leveled against Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, who, it turns out, "is acting in the interests of the Russian special services."

According to local oblast television, Lvov Oblast Soviet Chairman Nikolay Gorin has stated that if anything happens the oblast soviet will be able to head acts of civil disobedience. A National Salvation Committee, headed by Ukrainian People's Deputy Stepan Khmara, has been set up. The committee proposes blocking railroads, oil and gas pipelines, and Russian traffic movement.

For its part, the Ukrainian Republican Party considers that accords with Russia are possible only under the following conditions: Russia must, no later than the end of 1994, pay compensation to Ukraine for not just half the Black Sea Fleet but also for Ukraine's share (16.37 percent) of all the fleets of the former USSR. Further, it is proposed to take account of Russia's debt to the Ukrainian state for the assets of the former USSR, for Ukraine's part of the gold reserve and diamond fund, for real estate abroad, for Ukraine's contribution to the development of the oil-extracting complexes in Siberia and the former Union's energy-supply system, for transport links, and also "for the use of the slave labor of concentration camp prisoners in developing the North, Siberia, and the Far East," and that is by no means all the demands.

Exploiting the situation, the western regions of Ukraine are preparing to impeach President Kravchuk. Small wonder that Kravchuk's resignation has become the main demand of the bloc of parties of overtly right-wing nationalist persuasion which is being created. As yet the president is in no hurry.

But Prime Minister Kuchma has tendered his resignation twice now, and that is a very disquieting symptom.

Kuchma Backs Gaydar-Type Reforms; for Economic Union

LD1609084993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0822 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Kiev September 16 TASS—Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma opposes the monetarist-type reforms which Russia initiated in 1992 under the government of radical marketeer Yegor Gaydar, but urged an economic union with Russia and admitted that Ukraine will have to sacrifice a part of its rights for the purpose.

"In the very beginning I said that I do not welcome the monetarist, Gaydar-type way (of reforms). It leads to nowhere", Kuchma told reporters after attending a Russian-Ukrainian economic seminar in Kiev.

"The Russian experience showed that they now want to abandon the way. That is why such complicated processes are going on in the executive authority", he added in an interview aired by the republican TV Thursday.

Kuchma stressed that the production slump in Russia is the major problem. "It is not a very good situation when shops are filled only with foreign-made goods and there are no home-made products. This testifies to bad processes", he explained.

However, he admitted that the situation in his country is even worse. "What Ukraine once used to have - oil, gas, timber, other resources - has been exhausted. And what we have in the ground lies at such a depth which demands new technologies and investments which we do not have as the budget is empty", he said, adding that the "energy shock" from price hikes on Russian fuel also complicated the situation.

Kuchma urged an economic union with Russia and said the republican parliament had to decide how to minimize the loss of independence in this connection.

"We are so linked with each other that without an economic union there is no way out for us. But how can we avoid losing our independence in this situation and preserve the statehood? This is the task of the Supreme Soviet... To find an optimal decision", he said.

But Kuchma admitted that a certain loss of rights is inevitable in any union. "Even a marriage is not an exclusion", he said.

Kuchma at Seminar With Russian Economists

WS1609090793 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma by Vitaliy Naumenko at a symposium of Ukrainian and Russian economists in Pushcha Ozerna; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Naumenko] When reporters asked Prime Minister Kuchma whether his participation in the seminar of Ukrainian and Russian economists was due to his intention to remain in the post of prime minister, Leonid Kuchma said: Absolutely not. However, I keep studying and I am not going to stop my activities after resignation. While answering a question whether Ukraine is walking in the footsteps of market reforms in Russia, Leonid Kuchma said:

[Kuchma] I would not put it that way. The progress of reform in any country cannot be assessed only on the basis of the Gross National Product or production volume. We must assess the in-depth processes that are under way in these countries. In the times of so-called perestroyka, we were, in fact, observing what was going on in Russia and imitating, not always in the best

manner, what was being done there. Today's exchange of opinions has demonstrated that not everything is as good in Russia as it might seem. When only foreign goods are on store shelves, it is not a good sign but evidence of evil processes. I think that Ukraine was trying to go its own way, I can say this from the viewpoint of the prime minister. At the very start, I said that I did not support Gaydar's monetary policy—it leads nowhere—and Russia's experience has demonstrated this. They are now trying to abandon this path and this causes the complicated processes in the Russian leadership and administrative bodies. On the other hand, we should not compare the starting conditions of Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine is in a more complicated situation, although we have never been independent and we have to create everything anew. The resources that Ukraine once possessed, including, oil, gas, and lumber, have, in fact been exhausted. The resources that Ukraine still has are so deep that their production would require new technologies and, more importantly, investment, which the budget unfortunately lacks. This is why the power shock we now feel from the Russian side influences the very progress of economic reform. Under the colossal inflation, no wise man would invest in production. We placed our hopes in banks. The banks, indeed, accumulated an enormous amount of capital—4 trillion [currency not specified]. However, could you furnish a single example of serious investment by our commercial banks? There are none. These banks are rocketing the inflation. You know the minimum interest rate fixed by the National Bank—it is 240 percent; there is no such rate in commercial banks. Where have we arrived? We have what we have, I like to repeat those words of President Kravchuk.

[Naumenko] The main motif of today's seminar was how to form an economic union and retain sovereignty. I would appreciate your comments on this.

[Kuchma] I would not say that this is the issue of the day. The main thing is to understand which way each country is going. We are attached to one another and should consult and find optimal decisions. Wise people indeed understand that we will not find a solution without economic union. How can we protect independence and sovereignty in such a situation? I understand that these are sacred things and they are worrying people in Ukraine. This is a task for politicians, in the first place. Of course you understand that any union and any treaty, even marriage, is, in a way, infringing upon someone's rights. Thus, we must soberly think over these problems and find a solution that would not infringe upon the interests of Ukraine. The final decision will be made by the Supreme Council. If the latter approves the decision, executive bodies will have to observe it.

[Naumenko] Imagine that the Supreme Council accepts your resignation. Do you see an individual capable of heading the Ukrainian Government; someone who would not be afraid of responsibility?

[Kuchma] I have never rejected the principle that today, under the conditions of severe economic and political crisis, executive power should be concentrated in one pair of hands. I will not give up this idea.

Zlenko on Black Sea Fleet, Russia, Poland

BR1609143793 Brussels LE SOIR in French 16 Sep 93 p 6

[Interview with Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko by Pol Mathil; place and date not given: "Ukraine: The Russian 'Debt'—Fleet Not Sold, Says Zlenko"; first graf is introduction]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko participated in talks in the Crimea. On the eve of his arrival in Brussels, where he will meet with representatives of the Belgian Government (Foreign Minister Willy Claes), of the EC (Mr. Van den Broek, EC Commissioner responsible for foreign relations), and of NATO (Secretary General Manfred Woerner), Mr. Zlenko gave LE SOIR an interview on the subject of the Black Sea fleet controversy, extracts of which are published below.

[Mathil] The Yalta agreement between Ukraine and Russia on the sale by Ukraine of its half of the Black Sea fleet was described as "Canossa," as a capitulation in the face of Russian pressure. Have you really given up your ships, this symbol of your independence, in order to pay for Russian gas and oil supplies?

[Zlenko] This plan was discussed at the last summit between Messrs. Kravchuk and Yeltsin. Their instruction was to examine this question and to propose various solutions.

[Mathil] Nonetheless, President Yeltsin is claiming that this was a definite settlement, and is even talking of a Russian success, as if the fleet was already his. How do you explain this confusion?

[Zlenko] It is a case of wishful thinking, mixing up desires with reality.

[Mathil] There is a similar difference of opinion regarding nuclear weapons. Has the time not come at last to send back the 176 strategic missiles and ratify the SALT-1 agreement? Why is its ratification regularly postponed? Is it a question of money?

[Zlenko] Among other things. The whole affair is being dealt with by Parliament. However, I think that I can say that its ratification will be on the agenda at the next sitting of the assembly.

[Mathil] You offered Poland, in particular, a treaty on regional security—which it declined. Why did you make this proposal? Are you in danger?

[Zlenko] It was not a question of a treaty on regional security. We merely discussed the idea of possibly creating a zone of stability and security in the center of Europe. This proposal was not rejected by Poland, it is still being discussed by the experts.

[Mathil] Boris Yeltsin has stated reservations regarding the possibility of Polish membership of NATO. What is your view?

[Zlenko] Every nation has the right to determine its own future. We understand Poland's desire to belong to NATO, and I see nothing worrying about this eventuality. We enjoy very good relations with Poland.

[Mathil] Would you not feel better sharing a border with a country belonging to NATO?

[Zlenko] We are thinking further ahead. We would like to have our security guaranteed within a broader European context.

[Mathil] Is there a danger of destabilization in your region? Your relations with Russia are not good. Will the danger come from the North?

[Zlenko] We would like to avoid such a scenario. Of course we have problems, but we are trying to have the best possible relations with Moscow.

[Mathil] Is it wrong to believe that the main danger to your independence is not an external one, but rather arises from your disastrous economic situation and the political crisis in Kiev? President Kravchuk himself will have to agree to hold a vote of confidence.

[Zlenko] It is not easy to govern Ukraine. Our economic situation, as you say, is not very good. However, there can be no turning back the clock. What has already been accomplished in terms of economic reforms and the free market is irreversible. Having said that, it is inevitable that young democracies will make mistakes. What we lack, above all, is competent experts and managers.

[Mathil] LE SOIR recently concluded that Ukraine is the most dramatic example of a former Soviet state where the understandable euphoria of independence has eclipsed any economic calculations. In 1991 you promised three things: political stability, far-reaching economic reforms, and resistance to pressures exerted by Moscow. Two years later your promises are in ruins, as indeed is your country.

[Zlenko] Let us not dramatize or dwell on the situation in Ukraine. Despite our difficulties, Ukraine is a solid, loyal partner, which respects human and minority rights, and international regulations, and which has succeeded in avoiding ethnic conflicts. Just compare the Ukrainian situation with that facing other former Soviet states. However, above all, how do you imagine a country like ours could overcome the handicap of its inheritance from the USSR in just two years?

[Mathil] Do you not think that the divorce from Russia after centuries of living together was taking things too far? Could you consent to an integrated structure focused around Russia?

[Zlenko] I do not like the term "divorce." We are in favor of some form of integration, but one that does not endanger our sovereignty.

[Mathil] "Ukraine," the name of your country, has its roots in the Ukrainian word meaning "limits," or "periphery." When you come to Brussels do you feel that you are on the periphery of Europe?

[Zlenko] On the contrary, Ukraine is in Europe. We already belong to various European institutions and we would like to join all the others. Furthermore, the geographical center of Europe is situated on Ukrainian territory. Check this up for yourself.

Zlenko, French Chief of Staff Discuss Security

LD1609222293 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1313 GMT 16 Sep 93

[From the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Press Center]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, who is in Paris on a working visit, has met UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor. They talked in particular about UNESCO assistance in minimizing consequences from the atomic energy accident at Chernobyl.

On the same day, Zlenko spoke with Admiral Jacques Lanxade, France's armed forces chief of staff. Many issues were discussed, in particular the initiatives of Ukraine's president and France's prime minister on setting up a zone of stability and security in central and eastern Europe. The need to deepen bilateral Ukrainian-French relations was also stressed.

Zlenko also met representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora in France and called on them to cooperate in developing Ukraine as a full-fledged European state.

In the evening, the official opening of Ukraine's Embassy in France took place, at which government officials, members of diplomatic missions accredited in Paris, and representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora and media were present.

Zlenko Speaks on Policy in Brussels

LD1609223293 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1942 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko began his stay in Belgium with a speech on Ukraine's foreign policy guidelines and Ukraine's vision of the prospects for European integration, delivered in Egmont Palace. This event, organized by the Ukrainian Embassy and the Royal Institute of International Relations, evoked considerable interest in Belgium's capital, in particular within diplomatic circles, European communities, and NATO.

The program of the visit by the foreign minister to Brussels envisages negotiations and meetings with the

Belgian minister of foreign affairs, who currently chairs the European Community, and also with the leadership of NATO, the European Community, and the Western European Union.

PRC's Qian Qichen Denies Plan To Buy Aircraft Carrier

AU1609161293 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 11 Sep 93 p 2

[Report by the DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA News Service: "...Our Proud 'Varyah' Did Not Take Their Fancy"]

[Text] The crowded program of the official visit in Kiev by Qian Qichen, the Chinese State Council vice premier and minister of foreign affairs, left some space for a traditional news conference. It was held at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The guest was introduced to journalists by the head of that department, Anatoliy Zlenko.

Representatives of our republic's mass media "bombarded" the PRC foreign minister with topical questions—on his attitude toward the results of negotiations between the Ukrainian and Russian leaderships in the Crimea. However, Qian Qichen was not inclined to make any assessments and stated that, in the course of negotiations in Kiev, he only listened to the current information on this theme, which is so important for us.

Another block of questions concerned bilateral economic relations between Ukraine and China. In the opinion of the head of the PRC external political department, preconditions for cooperation are plentiful and favorable, and a good start was made during the Ukrainian president' recent visit to China. It is now the turn of a practical implementation of the mutual intentions. To this end, intergovernmental commissions for trade and economic cooperation are being drawn into this work. Therefore, it is presently still in its initial stage. However, we are happy that, over the first half year, the volume of trade between our two countries reached the level of the whole of the last year (although, in absolute figures, it is still quite modest).

The journalists wanted to know how the Chinese minister of foreign affairs visualized the main economic priorities in the partnership interrelations with Ukraine, in particular, prospects for cooperation in studying space and the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

The journalists also took the opportunity to check the version that recently occupied the imagination of many people in Ukraine. It was about China's alleged intention to buy our still-unfinished aircraft carrier "Varyah." The guest specified that there is no agreement on weapons trade between our countries. Then the guest said, not without irony, that the world press often forestalls events when it asserts that we have already purchased more than one aircraft carrier. Therefore, he remarked, please do not believe this if you read somewhere that the Chinese minister has bought the "Varyah."

Russians Present Findings on Pervomaysk Nuclear Arms

LD1609153493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] A group of nuclear weapons specialists from Russia has urgently visited the city of Pervomaysk, at the request of the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma. They found crude violations of the rules of keeping nuclear ammunition in the arsenals which remained in Ukraine after the breakup of the Soviet Union. It was also established that the radiation level in the storages increased several times and was not safe for the personnel. The specialists say, however, that the situation could be brought to normal and made corresponding recommendations. A representative of Russia's Defense Ministry, General (Yakovlev), said that one reason for the incident in Pervomaysk is that Ukraine, which has declared its nonnuclear status, has not yet handed over its nuclear weapons to Russia to be destroyed there.

National Affairs

Commentator Expects Kravchuk Will Compromise With Kuchma

AU1709094493 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Sep 93 p 1

[Volodymyr Oliynyk Commentary: "The Premier's Time Is Up?"]

[Text] Our week-old prediction to the effect that with the resignation of Vice Premier Viktor Pynzenyk, the balance within the government will be totally destroyed has turned out to be true. As is already widely known, after long hesitation, on Friday, 9 September, the Ukrainian Prime Minister made a statement on resignation at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers.

However, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has managed to persuade the premier to continue fulfilling his duties until the Ukrainian parliament discusses the question of his resignation.

The fact of government resignation is a normal phenomenon, except when it takes place against the background of the sociopolitical situation in Ukraine, where people are still unable to get over yet another price hike. All the more so, since the prime minister recently assured the people that he would not sign another directive on price increase. Anyway, prices have gone up. The premier is waiting for a decision on his fate, and parliament is again faced with a dilemma. Whether simply to let the premier go or to ask him, at parting, what he meant when he wrote in his statement to the Ukrainian president that "attempts to draw the government into the fruitless work on combining opposed ideas in the Program [for Urgent

Measures To Emerge From the Crisis] and combining the governmental Program with other programs constitute a direct consequence of the desire to deprive our society of confidence in the socioeconomic policy."

President Leonid Kravchuk has even more problems to deal with. If Kuchma goes, who will assume the duties of premier? Besides, the exacerbation of the election struggle will not allow the president to take a risk and head the government personally, because even if the situation immediately stabilizes and inflation is halted, he will simply not have enough time to properly compete with active rivals, and the possibility for political maneuvers will be reduced to a minimum.

I believe the president will resort to the well-tried method of compromise. The government will be joined by even more representatives of the directors' corps, and it is not ruled out that they will come from the ranks of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs who subjected the government to ruthless criticism. The chairs of vice premiers may be occupied by reformers and representatives of the democratic center, as has been the case until now.

Time will tell, but it is necessary to hurry up, because winter is close at hand.

Parties Want Parliament, Government Resignations

AU1709093293 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 14 Sep 93 p 1

[RUKH-PRESS report: "A Congress Was Held by Political Parties, Public Organizations, Trade Union Associations, and Workers' and Strike Committees"]

[Text] **The Position of the Intransigent**

[Vyacheslav Chornovil, Ukraine's People's Movement, Rukh, leader] For the first time, so many public, political, and trade union organizations have come to a joint decision.

[RUKH-PRESS] Will Rukh take part in forming the government after Leonid Kuchma's government resigns, for which the entire Congress has voted?

[Chornovil] The leading organs of Rukh have not yet adopted such a decision. I am personally against participation in the formation of a new government. It will be a very temporary government. It is only after the Supreme Council falls that we will take part in the formation of a real government of independent Ukraine.

[RUKH-PRESS] It was decided at the congress that, on 21 and 28 September, mass actions will take place in support of the demands that have been adopted. What is, in particular, being prepared by Rukh?

[Chornovil] We will call upon our supporters to come to the Supreme Council. At the congress, we did not agree on absolute coincidence of the slogans of the 28 September all-Ukrainian strike or on picketing of the Supreme Council, and that is why we will raise the question about the economic union, about the Crimea, and other things. We will also organize mass measures in provinces. For example, with the support of Rukh, a one-hour warning strike already took place in Lvov Oblast, and such actions are likely to spread.

[Oleksandr Mril, chairman of the Independent Miners Union] The congress has justified our expectations. It is the first time such dissimilar political movements united by a common goal have gathered together. Thus, there is a start, and the main things now is to fulfill accords and achieve the desired result. A great role here will be played by political parties, which must influence public opinion and ensure support for the actions of 21 and, especially, of 28 September.

[RUKH-PRESS] Will free trade unions and, in particular, the Independent Miners Union influence the formation of a new government after the resignation of Leonid Kuchma's government?

[Mril] It is more important to influence the formation of a new parliament, because the present deputies are unable to create a normal government. Proposing our candidates to the parliament, we will cooperate with a certain political party or movement and will conduct an election campaign together.

[Les Tanyuk, head of the society "Memorial" named after Vasyl Stus, Ukrainian dissident who died in prison] I think this is the beginning of a new union of democratic forces. However, before appointing new elections, the Supreme Council must cancel agreements signed in the Crimea and stop trading in Ukrainian territory.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Urges Restoration of CIS Relations

LD1509135393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 15 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty September 15 TASS—It is impossible for the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States to pull out of the deep crisis without restoring disrupted relations, said Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev at his meetings with workers during his regular tour of Kazakh regions.

He said during his tour of the north-Kazakh region that Kazakhstan's joining of the rouble zone of a new type, naturally, means some infringement on its sovereignty. But there is no absolute independence in pure form.

All countries are mutually dependent to some extent or other. Therefore, one state should concede something to another to receive a concession from the latter. These concessions should be made strictly on an equal basis.

Therefore, it is important that all the countries forming the rouble zone of a new type should conduct an agreed policy, above all in the financial, budgetary and customs spheres, Nazarbayev noted.

Otherwise, the good initiative will be doomed. It will remain a good intention, as many other agreements and understandings which the CIS countries adopted quite a number in the course of their short history.

Turning to the coming debate on an agreement for Kazakhstan's accession to the rouble zone of a new type at the Kazakh Parliament, Nazarbayev noted that he does not feel any concern about the coming discussion. He is convinced that republican legislators will display their usual state wisdom and maturity.

President Mitterrand Arrives on Official Visit

LD1609135993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1317 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Amangeldy Akhmetalimov]

[Text] Almaty September 16 TASS—President Francois Mitterrand of France arrived in Kazakhstan's capital of Almaty on Thursday on a two-day official visit.

This is the first visit by the French leader to the Central Asian republics since the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

In an impromptu news conference at the airport, Mitterrand praised Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's policy both in the republic and in the international arena.

Later, Nazarbayev and Mitterrand had a one-to-one meeting. Official talks will begin on Friday.

Pledges Aid

LD1609214393 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The French flag is flying high over Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, where President Mitterrand is spending 24 hours on an official visit. Mitterrand has announced a 300-million francs loan for the people of Kazakhstan. He was interviewed by our special correspondent, Ralph Pinto.

[Begin Mitterrand recording] Your actual and potential resources are huge. The economic relationship between our two countries is still at a very early stage. There are many projects and huge needs but we both have the men and the means. Important contracts are being negotiated in the oil sector, of course, but also in the building industry, telecommunications, agriculture and auto industry. In order to facilitate implementation of the contracts and encourage companies to carry on with their efforts, France will grant medium-term loans. This is a first step toward a strengthening of our economic relationship. It's also a sign of the trust we have in your development and success. [end recording]

Calls For Increased Ties

LD1609225893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1730 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand arrived today in Kazakhstan on an official visit. Our correspondent in Paris, Yevgeniy Lukyanov, reports:

[Lukyanov] This will be the first visit by a French head of state to Kazakhstan since its proclamation of independence. Francois Mitterrand established his first contact with Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev a year ago during the latter's visit to Paris. On the eve of his visit to Almaty, Mitterrand expressed his satisfaction at the chance to see Kazakhstan for himself.

[Begin Mitterrand recording in French fading into Russian report] For us in Western Europe, Kazakhstan today represents, in my opinion, the most politically stable and economically promising of the countries that formerly made up the USSR. Thanks to its geographical situation and wealth of natural resources, Kazakhstan has every chance of becoming one of the most important countries in the world. Mitterrand believes Kazakhstan now faces the difficult but important task of continuing to strengthen its sovereignty while under no circumstances disrupting its long-established and firm links with neighboring countries. [end recording]

It is well understood that Mitterrand's visit to Almaty is not just a return courtesy visit.

[Begin Mitterrand recording in French fading into Russian report] We are very interested, Mitterrand stressed,

in developing friendly relations with Kazakhstan. Evidently, at the heart of these ties will lie trading and economic links and cooperation, which, in the estimation of the French side, have progressed considerably. Furthermore, President Mitterrand expressed the hope that the representatives of French business circles accompanying him on his tour of Kazakhstan and South Korea would increase their capital investments in the Kazakh economy and that France's economic presence in Kazakhstan would become even more appreciable. [end recording]

Meets Privately With Nazarbayev

LD1709100893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 17 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Amangeldi Akhmetalimov]

[Text] Almaty September 17 TASS—French President Francois Mitterrand, paying an official visit to Kazakhstan, laid a wreath at the eternal flame of the memorial to glory in Kazakhstan's capital this morning. A minute of silence was dedicated to the memory of those Kazakhs who died in World War two.

Later the French head of state visited the Kazakh National Musuem to see its large exposition, which tells about the rich history and current state of this newly-independent country.

After the museum, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and President Mitterrand had a private conversation in Nazarbayev's residence.

The honored guest took part in the opening of his country's embassy in Kazakhstan's capital.

The two heads of state are scheduled to sign agreements between their countries in the "blue hall" of the Kazakh president's residence this afternoon.

Then they will open a press conference for the media of Kazakhstan, France and other countries devoted to the Kazakhstan-France summit.

Tajikistan

Paper Reviews Results of U.S. Envoy's Vist

PM1609105393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 2

[Umed Babakhanov report: "Will Tajiks Have To Learn English?"]

[Text] Strobe Talbott, the U.S. President's personal envoy, who is on a lightning tour of the ruins of the former Union, has reached Dushanbe. There a document emerged as a result of the delegation's talks with the Tajikistan leadership, a document strongly redolent of a decree by our Politburo with the title "Expediting Help to the Republic of Tajikistan."

The document is concerned with the provision of humanitarian, technical, and economic aid to the "new Republic of Tajikistan, which is still experiencing birth pangs" (Talbott's words). The guests, who clearly felt that they were the hosts in Dushanbe, stated straightaway that they would sign the agreement only in English, flatly refusing to sign the Tajik version of the document. The Tajik leaders preferred to swallow this pill in silence and made no mention of Tajik's status as state language on this occasion.

At the press conference on the results of the talks which Strobe Talbott held, Clinton's envoy was, in his own words, absolutely frank. He reminded journalists that the United States had already given the republic $43 million in aid since the opening of the American Embassy in Dushanbe (6 March 1992) and stressed that this was just a drop in the bucket. Further Tajik-American cooperation will be directly dependent on the course pursued by the Tajik Government. The main conditions attached by the American side are observance of human rights, the carrying out of market reforms, and a course of democratizing society. "As yet Tajikistan is not in the front rank of CIS republics in meeting these requirements," Talbott said. "Tajikistan is very rich in human and natural resources. And many American businessmen would like to open up their own business here."

In answer to a question from KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA about whether Tajikistan falls within the U.S. sphere of vital interests and how far his country is prepared to go to maintain its influence here, Mr. Talbott candidly stated in a typically American way that the whole world is part of that sphere.

Rakhmanov Message to People on Progress in Republic

LD1709054793 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

["Message" by Imamali Rakhmanov, head of state and chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Message by Imamali Rakhmanov, head of state and chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council, to experts of the agro-industrial complex; ranking officials of ministries, departments, and establishments of the republic, and of oblasts, towns, and rayons; figures of science and culture; trade unions and unions of youths; students of higher and special secondary educational establishments; brave servicemen of the Defense Ministry, Internal Affairs Ministry, and the National Security Committee; leaders of the highest office of the clergy [muftiyot] and communal mosques; and all inhabitants of Tajik towns and villages:

Dear compatriots, ceremonial celebrations of the auspicious independence of our dear country and of the second world congress of Tajiks and our compatriots abroad were in a way the summing up of those efforts

that have been carried out in reliance on the clear thinking and patriotic forces of the republic's leadership for the sake of the national unity and integrity of our dear country.

The open domestic and foreign policy of our dear country aimed at returning refugees back to their homeland, tackling various difficulties pertaining to the normalization of the situation and life inside the country, consolidating the security of the country and of its citizens, achieving mutual understanding with neighboring countries—most of all, with the Islamic State of Afghanistan, where thousands upon thousands of our compatriots are still taking refuge—are the efforts that have considerably raised the international prestige of our young state in the whole world.

Now the people are busy with fruitful and creative work in the whole territory of our tortured Tajikistan. The nine months since the legitimate government came to power were months of normalization of the political situation and of mutual understanding. We had to take a lot of measures in order to normalize the situation. A strong structure of people's government has been established from the distant villages to the center of the state. Peaceful conditions were created—although with difficulty—for fruitful activity in all fields.

The full text of the address will be published in the press.

Combat Operations Begin Against Afghan Guerillas

LD1709100193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0918 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Dushanbe, 17 Sep ITAR-TASS—Russian border guards and Tajik Government forces have begun a combat operation to neutralize two armed groups of Tajik Islamic extremists, who yesterday used force to cross from the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the region of the deployment of the Pyandzh Border Unit, and who penetrated seven kilometers into the Tandara gorge in Saartuz Rayon of the republic. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today at the republican National Security Committee, the groups number just over 70 people. As two captured guerrillas testified, they are all from the border regions, and have been trained by foreign instructors in a training camp in the Afghan province of Kutuz.

The aim of the incursion was to get a foothold on the territory of these two rayons in Tajikistan, to carry out terrorist operations, and destabilize the social and political situation in Tajikistan.

The prisoners also testified that several more armed groups, belonging to the "Rebirth of Tajikistan" Islamic party, were expected to cross the same sector of the Tajik-Afghan border in the nearest future.

The Tajik National Security Committee let it be clearly understood that if the criminals refuse to surrender, they will all be eliminated. Additional measures are simultaneously being taken to strengthen defenses of the Pyandzh sector of the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Turkmenistan

U.S. Envoy Shortens Visit; Aid Accord Unsigned

LD1609121893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Tatiana Khudobina] Strobe Talbott, special adviser to the U.S. secretary of state, has decided to shorten his visit to Turkmenistan and not sign the agreement on the granting of U.S. aid to that country. Today THE WASHINGTON POST notes that he took this harsh decision as a mark of protest against the actions of the authorities of Turkmenistan who prevented four leaders of the opposition from meeting him.

Uzbekistan

U.S. Ambassador Strobe Talbott Visits Tashkent

Meets With Karimov

LD1509131893 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1159 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] [no dateline as received]—Yesterday (14 September) President I. Karimov of Uzbekistan received Strobe Talbott, U.S. State Department ambassador at large. During the conversation that took place, the head of Uzbekistan told the guest in detail about the republic, and its plans for the future. Islam Karimov noted that he has great hopes for the prospects of political and economic links between Uzbekistan and the United States. Talbott conveyed to the leader of Uzbekistan a personal greeting from President Bill Clinton and expressed approval of the expanding reciprocal cooperation.

Early Departure Reviewed

PM1609162393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Mikheyev report: "U.S. Ambassador Talbott Quits Tashkent Almost English-Style"]

[Text] Strobe Talbott, the U.S. State Department's ambassador for special assignments, has canceled a planned news conference at which he was expected to sum up the results of his trip to Central Asia and has left Tashkent. Two reasons which forced him to alter his plans are named. The first is the difficulty of finding a common language (although the ambassador is fluent in Russian). The second is the cholera epidemic.

A "quiet diplomatic war" has taken place in recent months between Tashkent and Washington, Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov, our own correspondent in Uzbekistan, reports. The cause or, rather, the pretext was the incident at Tashkent Airport concerning a citizen of Uzbekistan, a staffer at the U.S. Embassy here, who allegedly violated the border regime while seeing off her U.S. colleague. Washington responded by not only issuing a protest to the Uzbek Foreign Ministry but also sending home early the members of an official Uzbek delegation who were in the United States.

In the opinion of Western commentators, Ambassador Talbott came to Tashkent on "a mission to disseminate teaching on human rights." At a meeting with President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan the guest passed on to him greetings from U.S. President Bill Clinton, expressed his approval for the setting up of relations between the two states, and accentuated attention on problems of democratization. Our Tashkent correspondent Sh. Zaynutdinov cites the following episode from that conversation:

"The leader of Uzbekistan drove the VIP guest into a corner in the literal sense: 'Who most of all understands U.S. problems and ways to resolve them?' This question hung in the air for a second, but Islam Karimov himself answered his own question: 'Of course, the people of that country themselves and its leadership. In just the same way I believe that Uzbekistan's problems must be resolved by Uzbekistan itself, its people, and its leadership.'"

On the eve of his conversation with the president Ambassador Talbott met with the leadership of the political opposition in Uzbekistan—the proscribed "Birlik" movement.

"Mr. Talbott told us that U.S. cooperation with Uzbekistan will be closely linked to human rights and democracy," Shukhrat Ismatullayev, one of the movement's leaders, told a REUTER correspondent. "He said that America's granting to Uzbekistan of most-favored-nation status in the trade sphere will depend on an improvement in the human rights situation in Uzbekistan."

Strobe Talbott promised Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan additional U.S. credits, but the U.S. President's chief adviser on the countries of the former Soviet Union did not assume any similar pledges in respect of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Here the criterion for choosing partners was not only and not so much political and economic stability, about which Uzbekistan's leaders speak with pride, but the degree of compliance with human rights.

Armenia

President Ter-Petrosyan Visits Moscow

Meets Yeltsin, Grachev

NC1609142093 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 0741 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 16 Sep (ARMENPRES)—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who was on a brief working visit to Moscow yesterday, met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Bilateral ties, mostly concerning the ruble zone, and issues relating to bilateral cooperation on preparations for the winter were discussed during the 45-minute private talk. The issue of settling the Karabakh problem was another topic of discussion.

The same day, Ter-Petrosyan met Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. Armenian State Minister Vazgen Sargisyan attended.

That day, Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Vigen Chitechyan, Armenian State Bank President Isahak Isahakyan, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, and Vyacheslav Solovyov, the deputy president of the Russian Central Bank, signed an agreement on integrating the two countries' monetary systems.

Returns After Meeting Kozyrev

NC1609175193 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan returned to Yerevan today from his brief working visit to Moscow.

While still in Moscow, Levon Ter-Petrosyan met Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today. The Armenian presidential press secretary reported that Vladimir Kazimirov, ambassador on special missions, was present at the meeting.

Azerbaijan Reportedly Fires on Border Regions

NC1609193093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We wish to stress right at the beginning that the relatively peaceful situation in the confrontation areas has not been disrupted. The NKR military forces are seriously heeding the cease-fire agreement. Regrettably, however, the same does not apply to the situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's military units have fired on several border rayons in Armenia with various types of arms during the past few days. Administrative buildings, houses, and vital installations have been destroyed as a result of Azerbaijan's provocative activities. Several peaceful citizens are reported to have been killed or wounded. We also wish to stress that the Armenian forces did not retaliate against the attacks. That is not the first time that they have done so.

It is a fact that certain circles in the neighboring republic wish to worsen the tense situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. They have not relinquished their political ambitions. Consequently, they are making an effort to obstruct the measures taken by Azerbaijan's leaders to stabilize the situation and remove the economic and political crisis in that republic. In short, the situation on the border indicates that the neighboring republic [words indistinct] against Armenia.

The situation on Armenia's northern border deteriorated once again on 15 September. Azerbaijan's military units fired on Koti in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon with various types of arms, including Grad rocket launchers. The intermittent firing continued for a long time.

Exchanges of fire took place around Vagashen in Idzhevanskiy Rayon last night. The enemy used tanks in the exchange.

The positions along Tavushskiy Rayon's border were fired on with Grad rocket launchers the night before last. The Armenian forces refrained from immediately returning the fire. However, they were forced to take retaliatory measures later.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has disclosed that no one has been hurt in the abovementioned areas. A report we received a short while ago said that a serious incident did not occur on the border last night and this morning.

Serious measures have to be taken against the forces that obstruct the effort made to stabilize the situation. Allowing similar activities to take place when measures are being taken to remove the tension and obstruct bloodshed in the region is a criminal offense.

Border Calm; Karabakh-Baku Phone Contacts

NC1609183893 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service has reported that a relative calm has been prevailing on Armenia's borders since last night.

The cease-fire agreement is being basically observed on the border between the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Azerbaijan.

NKR Defense Army headquarters reported that the presently functioning permanent telephone line between the leaders of the two republics [NKR and Azerbaijan] is making it possible to hold consultations to resolve emerging problems as well as to hold talks on issues related to the organization of a high-level meeting.

Popazyan's Aide Notes Need To Start Peace Talks

PM1609133993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Correspondent Karen Topchyan report incorporating comments by Aram Safaryan, the foreign minister's press secretary, under "In Trouble Spots" rubric: "Iran and Turkey Flex Muscles"]

[Text] Yerevan—According to reports from Yerevan, in the last few days officials in Ankara and Tehran have been making rather bellicose statements and have even made direct threats against Armenia. The main leitmotiv of these demarches is to portray the neighboring country as the aggressor in the Karabakh conflict, now in its sixth year.

Things are also uneasy on Armenia's borders: Large-scale military exercises are being conducted here by the Turkish and Iranian Armed Forces. Moreover, the other day the first shots rang out in the Artashat section of the Armenian-Turkish border. The fire came from the Turkish side. This fact was confirmed by Major General Aleksandr Basenko, commander of the Russian border guard detachment stationed in Armenia. In turn the border troops press service stated that the command is following the situation on the border and is taking measures to prevent conflicts.

Aram Safaryan, the Armenian foreign minister's press secretary, replied as follows when I asked how Yerevan's official circles regard the dangerously explosive situation that has developed in the region:

"In connection with neighboring states' threatening statements and the movement of military units into immediate proximity with Armenia's borders, our country's Foreign Ministry has made a statement drawing the world community's attention to the fact that these actions are being carried out at a time when a lessening of the escalation of hostilities in the Karabakh conflict zone can be observed, when bilateral talks are being held between representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan with Russian mediation, and when members of the CSCE's Minsk group are meeting in Minsk.

"We believe that the official representatives' statements and troop movements are not the best reaction to these events. The best way of solving the current crisis could have been to refrain from any actions aimed at further escalating the situation in the region. The time has now come to talk seriously about a truce and about starting a peace talks process."

Political observers in Yerevan believe that the latest manifestation of increased activeness by countries neighboring Armenia gives grounds for extremely depressing forecasts. The Karabakh confrontation is tending to graduate from the stage of a localized conflict to an international conflict. This refers to the different and largely discrepant geopolitical interests of Turkey and Iran in the Transcaucasus region.

Many political scientists are also inclined to believe that the attempt to take Armenia in hand is merely a pretext for Ankara and Tehran to restore their tarnished image in the region. The foreign policy actions of Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev show that Russia's role in the Transcaucasus is sharply increasing. In this context it can by no means be ruled out that increased military activeness by Iran and Turkey and the growing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh will force Russia—with Azerbaijan's consent—to send its troops back to this country, thereby restoring the status quo in the region.

Commission Examines Economic Links With Iran

NC1609205393 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 93

[Text] The State Commission on Coordination of Armenian-Iranian relations met under Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan on 16 September. Armenian Charge d'Affaires in Iran Vahan Bayburdyan and Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Armenia Ahmad Sobhani also participated in the meeting.

The Armenian vice president noted that the current situation in the region, and in particular on Iran's border, as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has created tension in Armenian-Iranian relations. However, it is the duty of the commission to ensure the evolution of the necessary legal atmosphere for the continuation of economic ties with Iran regardless of political complexities.

The representatives of different departments reported on the work being carried out in the energy sector, interstate trade, gas pipeline construction between Iran and Armenia, organization of border trade, and the transit freight transportation.

The meeting to be held in Tehran between the Armenian and Iranian power workers, Armenia's participation in the 8th international conference of power engineers to be held in Tehran at the beginning of November, and the construction of the bridge in Megrinskiy Rayon were also examined.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Ahmad Sobhani indicated that of all the CIS members Iran has the closest ties with Armenia, and noted that the political factors (?should) not disrupt the strengthening of these relations.

Azerbaijan

Armenians Shell Kazakh Region; 5 Killed, 15 Wounded

LD1609132393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1242 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku September 16 TASS—Five civilians were killed and 15 wounded in Azerbaijan's north-western region of Kazakh as a result of shelling from Armenian territory, the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry reported today.

The shelling lasted for over nine hours.

A total of 36 projectiles exploded in Kazakh, the district's administrative centre, destroying many houses, the local carpet-making factory and the Kazakh-Idjevan railway line.

Health Minister Guseynov Relieved From Post

NC1609190093 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] With a decree signed by the Chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, who also executes the powers of the Azerbaijani president, Rakhim Mammed Ogly Guseynov has been relieved from his post as the health minister of the Azerbaijan Republic.

3 Candidates Nominated for Presidential Election

NC1609155193 Baku TURAN in English 1244 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 16 (TURAN)—As TURAN's correspondent was told by the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) three persons have been nominated for presidential elections in Azerbaijan—Chairman of Yeni Azerbaijan Party Geydar Aliyev, Chairman of Vakhid Azerbaijan Party K. Abilova, First Deputy Chairman of Azeri Party Gummet, Vice-President of Azerbaijan-Ukraine Society, owner Zakir Tagiyev.

As Press-Secretary of Central Electoral Commission Rafael Nagiyev told, only lists for G. Aliyev's nominee were presented to the commission.

The lists for registration of another nominees haven't been presented to the commission yet. It have to be pointed out, that signatures of minimum 20 thousand electors are necessary for the registration of the nominees. As the Central Electoral Commission reported, Aliyev's nomination will be registered September 18.

To the materials, presented to the CEC G. Aliyev was nominated by 108 conferences of the stuffs of enterprises and members of some parties, about 205 stuffs of enterprises and educational institutions came out for the support of G. Aliyev.

According to the Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic the registration of the nominees is being carried out within three days since the moment of receiving the documents on nominating and the written agreement of the nominee to run for the election, but the papers have to be presented to the CEC not later than for 12 days before the election day, i.e. till September 19.

Paper Censored for Plan To Print Elchibey Appeal

NC1609161193 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1440 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 16.09.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Censorship didn't pass two issues of paper of Azerbaijani democrats "HURRIYET." The matter is that the newspaper was going to publish on its pages the appeal of President Elchibey to people, ASSA-IRADA was told by press-secretary of A.D.P. [Azerbaijan Democratic Party] Geyrat Guliyev. This is the violence of freedom of speech, says G. Guliyev. [sentence as received]

Georgia

Sukhumi Bombed; Abkhazians Approach City

LD1609145093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] A CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent, Gocha Avlotia, has just got in touch with Sukhumi on the phone and recorded a report by the head of the press center of the Sukhumi headquarters of the Georgian armed forces. Here is the recording.

[Begin recording] [Avlotia] Today, at 0500 [0100 GMT], the Abkhaz side, having breached the trilateral agreement on a cease-fire, started an offensive in the direction of Ochamchire.

The Abkhaz side is using heavy arms, tanks, and artillery. Battles are under way in two directions both, Tsagera and Aradu, and also at the Kodori River bridge.

At 1300 [0[illegible]00 GMT], the enemy attacked the Gumista River region as well as in the direction of Shroma and Akhalsheni. Besides, a group of Georgian and Russian observers were taken hostage from the other bank of the Gumista River.

The enemy has already crossed the Gumista River and the battles are taking place at the approaches of Sukhumi and in the Ochamchire Rayon. Sukhumi is being bombed. There are dead and wounded on both sides. I appeal to all Georgia, today, as the fate of Abkhazia and Georgia in general is being decided, that those armed formations who are engaged in the fratricidal war in west Georgia should come to Abkhazia as the Abkhaz issue is being decided at this very hour. [end recording]

Abkhaz Units Enter Sukhumi

LD1609133593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1320 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 16 Sep—According to information coming from the headquarters of the Russian unit of the Joint Commission for a Settlement in Abkhazia, Abkhaz armed formations have entered the town of Sukhumi. As

the ITAR-TASS correspondent has just been told at the press center of the Russian unit of the commission, fighting is going on already directly in the building of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze Appeals to Yeltsin Via Telegram

LD1609145393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1410 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 16 Sep—In view of the critical situation which has taken shape in Abkhazia, Chairmman of Parliament and head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze today flew urgently to Abkhazia. Before his departure by air he sent a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

It says, inter alia: "I appeal to you at a tragic hour for my homeland. No longer being in a position to ask you for anying, I notify you that the Gudauta gang's tanks and heavy combat equipment are concentrated outside Sukhumi. Minutes are ticking by. Any minute now its forces will break into the defenseless town devoid of the minimum means of defense. The same is happening in Ochamchirskiy [Ochamchire] Rayon, from where we, honoring our commitments under the Sochi agreement and your good will, have withdrawn our personnel and equipment."

For the third time now, Shevardndadze noted, "our people feel deceived by those who, having placed their signatures under agreements, do not undertake anything for their implementation." "How have we offended Russia and the world? Is it not that for the umpteenth time in the history of the Georgian people we wanted freedom and independence for ourselves?

"Now we have nothing with which to defend ourselves, and there is nothing left for me but to fly to Sukhumi and together with the defenseless citizens defend the town with my bare hands," Eduard Shevardnadze noted.

Goguadze Sends Letter to Yeltsin

LD1609190693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Vakhtang-Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Supreme Council, has sent a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

In particular, the letter says that the time has come when everything should get its real name. Today, the Sochi agreement has been treacherously violated. When I was going to sign the agreement [Goguadze signed the agreement from the Georgian side], I did not listen to the radicals who were saying that Russia could not be trusted.

The current events have unveiled everything. If all this is happening so that you are unaware of it, consider that your last day is approaching. If everything is happening according to your will, your last day is approaching anyway, since treachery like that does not occur in politics.

What will Shevardnadze's defeat give you? What will Georgia without Shevardnadze give you? It is easy for you to destroy Georgia but where will policy like this lead Russia? This will be the global defeat of Russia. The whole world will turn its back on such a country. Unfortunately, Russia seems [word indistinct].

I have often written about Russia. I have often praised its culture, but today I regret that I have to admit that there is no serious policy in Russia. Even bigger danger awaits you than the danger to which you are pushing Georgia. Regain your senses. There still is a small chance.

Moscow Orders Forces To Stop 'Offensive'

LD1609193493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The command of the Russian forces stationed in the Transcaucasus has received an order from Moscow to stop the offensive of the Abkhaz formations on Sukhumi. The Russian forces must also, according to the order, restore the situation between the two sides as it existed up to 16 September. This was reported by INTERFAX, which quoted Lieutenant General Boris Dyukov, deputy commander of the group of Russian forces in the region.

Meanwhile, according to information from the press center of the Georgian parliament, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is expected to arrive in Gudauta late in the evening of 16 September.

Russia Demands Halting Operations

LD1709111193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" program]

[Text] In reply to Shevardnadze' telegram, the Russian Government has demanded from Gudauta that combat operations be halted forthwith and that their formations be withdrawn to their initial positions.

However, earlier reports that Russian troops were given orders to stop the offensive in the region of Sukhumi were denied today by an assistant to the Russian defense minister.

At the same time, the UN Security Council has condemned the Abkhaz side and the U.S. State Department has expressed serious concern over the exacerbation of the conflict and stated its intention to continue work to bring the warring sides to a negotiating table.

Despite this, and if the situation in Georgia remains unchanged in the near future, Shevardnadze has not ruled out the possibility of general mobilization.

Sukhumi Officer Says City 'Out of Danger'

LD1609153993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] An officer on duty from the Sukhumi Second Army Corps operational headquarters, Lieutenant Kakha Tabliashvili, told CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY that information made public by Moscow TV claiming that Abkhaz units had entered Sukhumi was a complete lie.

Fighting is conducted at the Gumista River front line. Our units have advanced, thus Sukhumi is out of danger.

Abkhaz Viewpoint on Renewed Fighting

LD1609190593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a report reflecting the Abkhaz viewpoint of the development of events in the region:

[Correspondent K. Bzhania] At 0500 this morning the population of the blockaded town of Tkvarcheli in Ochamchirskiy Rayon independently made an attempt at a forcible breaking of the blockade in places where Georgian groupings are concentrated. The zone of combat activities extended from the town of Ochamchire to the River Kodori. The checkpoints of the joint commission in this region have not yet been removed, but unless the sides can reach agreement on a cease-fire within 24 hours, the brigades of the joint commission will be withdrawn from the areas where they are stationed.

After the resumption of fighting in Abkhazia, spontaneous rallies have taken place. The people have asked the military units to support the blockaded population of eastern Abkhazia. During the day some formations disobeyed the command and crossed the River Gumista and advanced on Sukhumi, where fighting is taking place.

The Press Service of Abkhazia's Parliament has announced that the Abkhazian Armed Forces' Command is taking measures to gain control of the situation.

This evening field commanders of the Abkhaz formations stated their intention to drive a corridor along the republic's highways. The fighting continues. [Video shows helicopter, soldiers, rally, tank, truck, and artillery piece crossing river; tank, view of Sukhumi.]

Battles 'Raging in All Sectors'

LD1609163993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Sukhumi, 16 Sep—At 1800, battles were raging in all sectors in Abkhazia. As the GEORGIAN INFORMATION AGENCY has just reported, 22 people on the Georgian side have been killed, including five civilians.

After Russian observers determined that the Sochi agreement had been breached by the Abkhazian side, they gave Georgian servicemen the breechblocks for their weapons.

Abkhazians Resume Shelling

LD1609185593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1750 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By GEORGIAN INFORMATION AGENCY-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 16 Sep—A correspondent of the Georgian INFORMATION AGENCY has just reported at the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia Defense Council Press Service (within Georgia), that at 2035 this evening Abkhaz formations resumed its mass artillery shelling of Sukhumi's housing areas.

Four shells exploded on the territory of the sanatorium belonging to the Moscow military district, where the headquarters of the Russian side of the joint commission for a settlement in Abkhazia and the UN mission are located.

At 2100 this evening it was reported from Sukumi that Abkhaz formations were using Grad installations to fire on the town.

Shevardnadze Escapes Injury

LD1609183393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] This evening, while Eduard Shevardnadze was holding a meeting at the headquarters of the Sukhumi 23d Brigade on the issues of defending Sukhumi, the building was shelled by direct laying [as heard]. One person was seriously wounded, and several soldiers were hurt. The head of state was not hurt.

Three Killed in Sukhumi Shelling

LD1609231893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2035 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By Gia-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Sukhumi, 17 Sep—As reported, after a two-month break the Gudauta gang has again subjected the town of Sukhumi to artillery fire, and in particular the building of the Headquarters of the 23d Brigade of the Georgian Ministry of Defense, which is commanded by Major

General Geno Adamia. At the time, E. Shevardnadze was there, holding a conference with military commanders and heads of the autonomous republic. As a result of the hits by shells, three people were killed, but the head of state was not hurt.

This evening, several shells fired by Abkhaz artillery burst in Sukhumi on the territory of the Russian army sanatorium.

Three medical workers were wounded.

Fighting Continues

LD1709082893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] According to RIA, the fight for the city of Sukhumi is continuing. At 5:00 this morning Abkhaz units resumed the shelling of the city and its approaches. They have occupied nearly all the heights over the city and captured the village of Shroma. Fighting is going on three kilometers from Sukhumi airport. On Abkhazia's eastern front, the most intensive fighting is going on along the Kodori river. Tanks and other armor are being actively used in all the battles. It is becoming clear that neither side has been in a hurry to fulfill the agreement reached in July on a cease-fire and the demarcation of the sides in Abkhazia. A RIA correspondent was given all this information at the press center of the Russian section of the joint commission for a settlement in Abkhazia.

Abkhazians Retreat

LD1709085093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] This morning at 1100 an employee of the Georgian Armed Forces Press Center in Abkhazia, David Jalagonia, told the CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY that the advantage which the enemy had, due to an unexpected attack, had been lost and that enemy's advance had been halted. The enemy had to retreat in several groups.

Battles are continuing. This morning Sukhumi was shelled. The situation is gradually coming under control. Our soldiers are defending the town bravely.

Mainly, the battles are taking place at the Sukhumi approaches. The enemy has not broken through into the town.

Battles are also continuing in the Ochamchire region.

Shevardnadze Press Secretariat Statement Urges UN Action

LD1609184293 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Today, the Georgian head of state's press secretariat issued a stetement saying that current events demonstrate that since the very beginning of the peace process, the Gudauta group has been nurturing plans to destroy it and has now started implementing its plans. A very convenient moment has been chosen: A civil war started by supporters of the ex-president in Western Georgia, and the process of demilitarization of the conflict zone in Abkhazia.

The statement also says that the United Nations should react immediately to what is happening, for it was the Georgian leadership that appealed to the United Nations to assign observers and military units to this area. The United Nations still has a chance to prove the soundness of its intentions directed toward the settlement of the situation in Abkhazia and confirm its authority as a principal peacekeeping force. This is extremely important at the moment, since the very existence of the Georgian state, as well as safety of hundreds of thousands of people, and a still existing chance to secure peace in the whole Abkhazian region are being questioned.

Deputies Protest To Russian Military on Abkhaz Developments

LD1609221893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpts] On 16 September, a group of 50 deputies from the Georgian Supreme Council visited the headquarters of the group of Russian Armed Forces in Transcaucasia. The group was lead by Supreme Council Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze.

In the absence of the commander in chief, the delegation was met by his first deputy, Major General Boris Dyukov. The deputies voiced a protest against the command of the Russian Armed Forces. They said that Pavel Grachev, along with other Russian leaders who took the role of guarantor in defending the Abkhazian cease-fire agreement should share the responsibility for the present bloodshed by the Gudauta group, since he [Grachev] is the head of the Russian Defense Ministry.

Goguadze read to General Dyukov the text of the letter he had sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. [passage omitted]

Dyukov promised the group of deputies that he would pass on their protest. He said that he had spoken to the commander of chiefs of staff of the Russian Armed Forces who said that on 16 September, at 2200 on 16 September, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, accompanied by commanders of various Armed Forces, and the command of the chiefs of staff, would fly to Gudauta to familiarize himself with the situation on the spot and take the appropriate decision.

Russian Officials Fly to Abkhaz Conflict Zone

Pastukhov, Shuykov in Gadauta

LD1609122893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1106 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS military analyst Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and head of the Russian part of the Joint Commission for Settling the Abkhazian Conflict Valeriy Shuykov flew to Gudauta today after completing their talks with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi. They will examine the situation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, which has flared up again, ITAR-TASS was informed by telephone by Shevardnadze's adviser Teymuraz Stepanov.

Recalling that Abkhazian troops had resumed hostilities in the Ochamchira district in violation of the July 27 Sochi Agreement, Stepanov said that the "Gudauta grouping had hatched plans from the very beginning of the peace-making process to torpedo it. Now it has begun to implement it, exploiting the advantages of the fratricidal civil war, unleashed in western Georgia by supporters of ex-President Gamsakhurdia". "Openly having openly resumed hostilities, the Abkhazian side is obviously coordinating them with the forces that have long since endeavoured to topple the single Georgian state," Stepanov stated.

The Georgian leadership today addressed a personal message to the U.N. secretary-general, to the presidents of Russia and the United States, asking for "urgent intervention" to normalise the situation in Abkhazia.

Grachev Arrives in Gudauta

LD1709021993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who has arrived in Gudauta in connection with the worsening of the situation in Abkhazia, has confirmed the Russian Government's statement, ITAR- TASS reports. In this statement, the actions of the Abkhaz armed formations is assessed as a crude violation of the Sochi cease-fire agreement. The Russian Government also demanded that the Abkhaz side cease combat operations, threatening political and economic consequences if this not done.

Russian Fighter Plane Crashes Near Gudauta

LD1709080693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] A SU-25 combat aircraft of the Russian air force based at Gudauta airport crashed into the sea 1.5 km south of the town of Novyy Afon [between Gudauta and Sukhumi] on Thursday [16 September]. The pilot died, INTERFAX was told at the press center of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations. The cause of the crash was not given.

Fighting Continues Between Kobalia, Government Forces

LD1609204593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] A SAKINFORM correspondent has telephoned the administrator of Samtredia [important railway junction in Western Georgia]. Answering a question about the current situation, the administrator said that there is fierce fighting between Loti Kobalia's illegal units and government troops near the River Tskhenistskali, which is just a few kilometers west of Samtredia. There are casualties. In spite of this the town remains quiet.

Government Troops Repel Kobalia Attack

LD1709090793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] During last night, the illegal armed formations of Loti Kobalia stepped up their activities especially in the direction of Poti. They attempted a mass attack on the town but all their attempts were promptly repelled by the state troops.

As we have been told by the administrators of Samtredia, Ozurgeti, and Zestafoni, these towns remain quiet.

The Lanchkhuti Rayon has been fortified and is ready to fight.

Supreme Council Decree on Emergency Measures

LD1609123293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] We shall familiarize you with the decree on introducing the emergency measures on the territory of the Republic of Georgia, adopted by the Georgian Supreme Council yesterday.

The Supreme Council of Georgia decrees:

1. To confirm the order of the head of state on introducing the emergency measures on the territory of the Republic of Georgia.

2. The emergency measures to come into effect on the whole territory of the Republic of Georgia as of 0000 hrs 20 September 1993, for the period of two months.

Motives for Shevardnadze Resignation Move Pondered

PM1609144793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Article by Aleksandr Shinkin: "The Players Bluff When the Stakes Are High. Eduard Shevardnadze Announces His Resignation"]

[Text] I do not know whether or not Eduard Shevardnadze plays cards, but he seems to have mastered one of the skills of the inveterate cardplayer. He has tried bluffing on several occasions, and it has brought him political dividends.

So the announcement of Shevardnadze's resignation, which was transmitted via ITAR-TASS 14 September, merely reminded one at first of the old story about whether the elephant would eat a tonne of mandarin oranges. The zookeeper's philosophical reply was: Sure he'll eat them, but who is going to provide them?

The elephant situation is similar in a way to Eduard Shevardnadze's attempted resignation from the post of head of state. Of course, he can announce it as much as he likes. But the question is—who is going to accept his resignation.

Parliament? Hardly, although it is not entirely out of the question. Although the present situation in Georgia is more likely to make the deputies stay with their chosen symbol—Shevardnadze. At any rate, one hour after the announcement came another report from Tbilisi saying that parliament had rejected Shevardnadze's resignation. Moreover, it emphasizes the unanimity of the decision: 149 deputies voted against accepting the resignation and—note well—one abstained.

The reasons for this are legion. The main one, in my view, is the economic situation in the republic. Georgia is essentially a country of unemployment. More than 70 percent of the population is unemployed. Industrial production has slumped to 10 percent of its former value. The disruption of links with Russia, whence it used to receive most of its energy and raw materials and goods, has not had the most beneficial of impacts.

If you add to this picture the rampant crime and the wars Georgia has been waging for over two years now, then you are unlikely to find a politician who is able even to keep afloat—someone like Shevardnadze, that is—not to mention change this situation.

The various political groupings, who are quarreling furiously among themselves, also prefer for the moment to take shelter behind Shevardnadze and his reputation as a democrat and lover of peace along with his other titles and labels. It is to their advantage.

But the stakes are much higher. It is no longer a secret that Eduard Shevardnadze has close links with the CIA and is actively pursuing U.S. policy in the Caucasus. Hence his efforts to drag UN forces into the region, and then, lo and behold, U.S. rapid deployment forces, and hence the overt cooperation with U.S. intelligence. Even if Shevardnadze intended to quit the post of government head, I do not think he would find it that easy. The Americans are, as we know, a pragmatic people, and they do not like pouring money down the drain.

It is hard to believe that Shevardnadze did not consider all these and other factors when resigning, and his patience did not snap, of course, as a result of Dzhaba Ioseliani's words accusing Eduard Amvrosiyevich of trying to establish a dictatorship in the republic in the guise of a state of emergency and the suspension of parliament's activities.

What is this experienced politician up to? Well, Eduard Shevardnadze has once again attracted the attention of an exhausted poeople. The people of Tbilisi immediately organized a rally outside parliament. He appeared and thanked them for their support. In his position popularity is no mean thing. After all, according to the polls, more than 70 percent of the people approve of the activities of Ajaria Supreme Soviet Chairman Abashidze, not Shevardnadze.

But, presumably, that is not why Shevardnadze is bluffing. It is more likely that he wants to cut loose from the "godfathers" who brought him to power in the republic after Gamsakhurdia. Observers have long noticed a coolness in their relationship, but Tengiz Kitovani and Dzhaba Ioseliani—possessing armed formations as they do—continue to exercise an influence on affairs in the republic. Shevardnadze is well aware that people who carry assault rifles will not want to respect the law and abide by the rules of a peaceful life so he is banking on new forces. I believe it was no accident that following his resignation announcement, he retired to his office with Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili and Information and Intelligence Service chief Irakli Batiashvili.

It is difficult to judge whether Shevardnadze will dare to take the warpath against his former friends.

At any rate, his resignation move was clearly intended to put the ball into play. Now he will be able to make the best of the powers that have been restored to him.

Estonia

Defense Minister Luik on Talks With Russia

LD1609105193 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 15 Sep 93

[From poor reception]

[Text] Another round of Estonian-Russian talks ended today in Moscow, with the [Russian] troop withdrawal under discussion. [Defense] Minister Juri Luik said that fairly strong pressure had preceded the talks. Both the UN secretary general's special envoy and the U.S. President had spoken to President Yeltsin on this subject. Estonia is now expecting that there will either be concessions made about the deadline for the troop withdrawal or another excuse found. This is what Defense Minister Juri Luik, leader of the Estonian delegation, said, and here he is on the telephone.

[Luik] A new excuse has been found: The Russians have now raised the issue of money. They want, in a [word indistinct] sense, money for a more favorable deadline. In fact, the United States, Denmark, Norway, and some other countries have set aside substantial (?amounts) for [Russian] officers to be housed in Russia, but the excuse is that the funds have not in fact been received and Russia cannot house her officers. So this is what we have been debating here near Moscow, and unfortunately, our positions remained far apart.

I believe [words indistinct] that before the U.S. Congress discusses economic aid to Russia on 6 October, whose one condition is that the troops should have been withdrawn from the three Baltic states, or that an agreement would have been reached to this end, there is bound to be some political activity in this sphere both on the part of the United States and the United Nations. The Russians themselves, too, promised that should there be a proposal made for possible international mediation, they would at least consider this option. So I believe that the next few weeks will be full of various countries attempting to prevent the conflict from sliding into a crisis, and to achieve some kind of an (?agreement) acceptable to both sides.

What was very matter-of fact this time was the so-to-speak practical discussion about the troop withdrawal. The Russian Federation produced figures as of 1 September. According to their data there are still 4,700 soldiers and officers in Estonia. This is a figure which matches that of the Estonian Defense Ministry. We then went through the current difficulties with the troop withdrawal, point by point: Handover of ports—here we achieved, at least within the discussion, and I hope that later it will develop into an agreement, a possibility of handing over the southern and northern harbors at Paldiski [to Estonia]. Difficulties have arisen with hydrography equipment albeit that matters were clear when the agreement was signed with Admiral Gromov. It seems that the plan to demilitarize the training center at Paldiski is beginning to take shape. That means that the Russian troops will remove their last military secrets from it and the training center will become a civilian installation under international control [words indistinct].

But on issues to do with matters of principle we continued to be far apart.

Latvia

U.S. Envoy Talbott Meets Leaders, Ends Visit

LD1609215193 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The visit of U.S. Ambassador at Large Strobe Talbott to Riga has ended. Meeting with Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, he emphasized that the U.S. government supports, and has always supported, the complete withdrawal of the Russian Army, and as quickly as possible from the Baltic countries. He also noted that the U.S. government does not believe that violations of human rights are taking place in relation to Russian-speaking residents of Latvia, but that a political problem exists, which the Latvian government must solve, both for the country itself, and for the interested neighboring countries. During his visit, he also took the opportunity to meet representatives of the Russian-speaking community and hear their views. Strobe Talbott took the oath and became an Ambassador at Large in April 1993. He is also advisor to the U.S. secretary of state on CIS issues.

CSCE Envoy Discusses Rights for Russian-Speakers

LD1509154693 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Max van der Stoel, CSCE high commissioner for minorities, stressed at a news conference today that Russian-speaking persons who came to Latvia during the period of the Soviet occupation and who wish to obtain Latvian citizenship, should either know colloquial Latvian or show the desire to learn it; they should also be loyal to the Republic of Latvia.

According to van der Stoel, the Russian-speaking people would generally become more loyal to Latvia, if they were granted a better opportunity to obtain the citizenship and political rights related to it. The restriction of this [word indistinct] opportunity does not promote stability in the country. Van der Stoel did not give any specific answer to a question, asked by a Baltic News Service correspondent, whether a Russian-speaking youth, who has lived in Latvia for at least 15 to 20 years and who does not know any Latvian, can be loyal to the Republic of Latvia at all.

According to van der Stoel, Russian-speaking people living in Latvia who have been sent to Latvia in accordance with the central planning policy of the former USSR are merely victims of the Soviet system in the same way as Latvians are.

In addition, at a meeting with Minister of State Reforms Maris Gailis, which was held before the news conference, Max van der Stoel was mostly interested in the local government reform, as well as in the right of non-citizens to take part in the next elections. Maris Gailis stressed that the right to vote is only provided to citizens.

Max van der Stoel, arrived in Latvia on 12 September for a visit which ended today. During his visit van der Stoel met many senior Latvian state officials and representatives of the Saeima factions and national minorities.

During his previous visit to Latvia, in April this year, van der Stoel gave recommendations to the Latvian government concerning a desirable solution to minority problems.

Lithuania

Slezevicius Confirms Reported Armed Uprising

LD1609150993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 16 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 16 Sep—"Over 100 men of the Kaunas Volunteers' Unit which is part of the Lithuanian National Defense Service have withdrawn to the forests with the aim of starting an armed struggle against the present authorities." This sensational news which became known this morning, was announced to journalists by the republic's Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius.

He said: "The authorities are taking all the necessary measures to arrange a meeting and talks with the 'insurgents' in order to prevent bloodshed and clarify all the circumstances. We will not allow the territory of Lithuania to become the arena for events similar to those that are now occurring in western Georgia," he stressed.

In an article entitled "Forest brothers by their own desire" the popular Lithuanian newspaper 'RESPUBLIKA' today writes: A group of soldiers of the military structure of the National Defense Ministry has been based for over a month in a bunker set up in the forests near Kaunas. They are armed with automatic weapons, they have declared war on the laws of the Lithuanian state, and refuse to submit to them. Their leader is Second Lieutenant Yonas Maskvitis. The members of this armed group make political demands and describe the legally elected institutions of power as "a swarm of communists."

What they are referring to is the Lithuanian Democratic Party of Labor which was victorious in the latest elections to the Seimas and the government.

Issues Remain in Talks With Poland

LD1609194893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The Polish and Lithuanian delegations at the negotiations did not manage to conclude the coordination of all articles in the agreement on friendly relations and good-neighborly cooperation.

The delegations, which met in Vilnius in a regular round of talks, were headed by Vladislovas Domarkas and Iwo Byczewski, deputy foreign ministers of Lithuania and Poland.

Domarkas told Lithuanian Television that discussions have started on a joint declaration by the Governments of Lithuania and Poland. However, according to him, so far only the basic structure of the declaration is being discussed and historic problems have yet to be looked at.

In future, both parties will have to decide how events in 1920 will be reflected in the declaration when Vilnius and the eastern part of Lithuania were occupied by Poland. As is known, the Lithuanian side insists that the declaration be signed together with the agreement. Meanwhile, Poland does not regard this as necessary.

The next meeting of the delegations is to take place in Poland at the beginning of October.